Hafa Adai!

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'NMI must grab every opportunity'

902 talks hope to address NMI issues

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second left, leads the CNMI 902 Consultation panel at the start of their meeting with representatives of the administration of President Donald J. Trump in Washington. D.C. Also in attendance are, from left, Northern Marianas Business Alliance Council chair Alex Sablan, Torres' senior advisor Matt Deleon Guerrero, and his chief of staff Angel Demapan.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI officials and the federal panel appointed by President Donald J. Trump opened the series of Section 902 talks on Tuesday in Washington, D.C., starting the dialogue in finding solutions to some of the problems and challenges that the Commonwealth is currently facing.

The administration, in a statement, said the CNMI panel, led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and their federal counterparts had a productive first day of consultations. "[It] opens further discussions toward a

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By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in his second straight day testifying in a legislative hearing, told members of the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee that CNMI officials like him must always take every opportunity to inform the federal government of the challenges that territories like Commonwealth are facing.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is shown here in a screen grab photo from yesterday morning's U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee hearing in Washington, D.C.

Toelkes responds to Propst's allegations

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

International Bridge & Construction Marianas Inc. vice president Robert W. Toelkes aired his side on an alleged controversial deal between his company and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that was brought up by House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan).

Propst, last month, again sounded the alarm on an emergency purchase contract awarded by CUC to the company owned by Toelkes, whom he said was also connected to a similar deal that raised red flags almost two years ago.

The contract is for a generator that will be shipped and installed on Rota after the CUC board declared an emergency to create reserve power for the island.

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American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers provide emergency assistance to the residents of a barracks fire in San Antonio.
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NATION
Michael Cohen said during his congressional testimony Wednesday that Donald Trump grossly overstated his wealth before becoming president.
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LIFE & STYLE
The family of Michael Jackson had a feeling the years-old child molestation allegations against the pop superstar would resurface at some point.
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Local

Man pleads not guilty to knife attack

A man involved in a knife attack pleaded not guilty last Monday to charges made against him.

Mickey Ray Gogue Deleon Guerrero, 21, pleaded not guilty to the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence) and disturbing the peace (domestic violence) during an arraignment last Monday at the Superior Court.

Deleon Guerrero was arrested following an incident on Oct. 2018 where he allegedly attacked another person with a knife.

According to court information, Deleon Guerrero allegedly attacked a household member by swinging a knife at him with the intent of striking him.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, Deleon Guerrero was charged with theft and possession of methamphetamine or "ice" back in 2016 and has been out on bail.

Deleon Guerrero allegedly admitted to stealing a car and smoking "ice" and owning drug paraphernalia.

Deleon Guerrero also allegedly admitted to stealing the vehicle with another person, and recklessly driving it to elude arrest. The descriptions of the car were not indicated in the report.

Police officer Adrian Mendiola, who stopped the car, immediately recognized the driver as it wasn't the suspect's first involvement in a theft of vehicle. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Hinamatsuri
ひな祭り
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IN FILING OVERSIZED OPENING BRIEF IN APPEAL

9th Circuit denies environmental groups' request

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied yesterday the unopposed request of the Tinian Women Association and three other environmental groups to file an oversized opening brief in connection with their appeal from the federal court's ruling in their lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Navy.

The Ninth Circuit ordered its clerk to strike the proposed brief that appellants Tinian Women Association and the three other environmental groups had filed.

The Ninth Circuit said the appellants' replacement opening brief, not to exceed 14,000 words, is due within 14 days after the date of this order.

The U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Navy and other co-appellees are given 30 days after service of the replacement opening brief to file their answering brief.

The Ninth Circuit directed its clerk to amend court records to replace appellee James Mattis with Patrick M. Shanahan, who is the acting U.S. Secretary of Defense.

The Tinian Women Association and the three environmental groups appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse the District Court ruling issued last Aug. 22.

In that ruling, U.S. District Court for the NM Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona concludes that the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Navy have not violated the National Environmental Policy Act or the Administrative Procedure Act in connection with the lawsuit filed by the Tinian Women Association and three other environmental groups.

Manglona said she finds that the Defense and Navy's decision to limit the training and range areas to those that met the needs of the Marines being relocated from Okinawa to Guam "was not arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accor-

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OPD files 14th motion in sexual abuse of minor case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona or the Office of the Public Defender filed last Wednesday the 14th motion as counsel of a defendant in a 2016 sexual abuse of a minor case, and blamed the Office of the Attorney General for the "unwarranted delay" of the trial.

This time, Zona filed a motion to dismiss with prejudice the case against defendant Joseph Seman Epina for violation of his right to a speedy trial.

Dismiss with prejudice means the government cannot re-file the case.

The second amended information charged the 45-year-old Epina with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace. He allegedly sexually abused a 12-year-old girl on March 12, 2016.

Zona said Epina has been forced to wait nearly three years in jail for his case to be resolved.

Zona said the defendant has been married to his wife for 22 years and they have four daughters.

She said Epina and his family have suffered greatly as a result of this case.

Zona said when Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan last October, Epina was in jail and could not help his family prepare for the typhoon or work on the house.

The Epina's family does not qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency's aid to fix the house as they are renters, not owners.

She said the family is trying to save up money to finance the repairs, however, at this time the home remains damaged.

Zona asserted that a criminal defendant has a constitutional right to a speedy trial under both the CNMI and the U.S. constitutions.

She said dismissal is appropriate because the government is responsible for this substantial and unwarranted delay.

Zona said her filing of motions to compel discovery, and also to challenge the reliability of the sole complaining witness in the case are in furtherance of Epina's right to a fair trial.

She said Epina has been forced to file discovery requests due to refusal of the OAG to follow the rules.

Zona added that Epina would not have to pursue a memory taint hearing had law enforcement refrained from coercive and suggestive interview tactics in the first instance.

Zona said finally, Epina has no control over the Superior Court's schedule in deciding motions, or in the timing, quality, or accuracy of recordings provided by the court.

"We are now nearly three years out from Mr. Epina's initial arrest and still he has not been to trial due to no fault of his own. This factor weighs in favor of a dismissal," Zona pointed out.

When former prosecutor Elizabeth Weintraub left OAG in 2017, the case was assigned to then-assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio. Last week, Tenorio also left OAG.

Saipan Tribune counted only three motions that the OAG filed—to quash subpoenas.

Last Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted OAG's motion to quash the subpoena served on former prosecutor Teri Tenorio and other OAG staff.

Ruling that Epina's subpoenas do not satisfy requirement, Camacho said such subpoenas "constitute an improper fishing expedition."

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Torres joins NGA sessions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres participated in three of the eight breakout sessions during the four-day 111th Annual Winter Meeting of the National Governors Association, which ended last Monday in Washington, D.C.

Torres joined discussions on issues concerning workforce development and rewarding careers, improving healthcare and drug pricing, and infrastructure and industries of the future. President Donald J. Trump's senior staff and some Cabinet members were also present in the meeting.

National Economic Council director Larry Kudlow, Council of Economic Advisers chair Kevin Hassett, and Trump advisor Ivanka Trump talked on how federal government can forge partnerships in workforce development and continue the economy's job growth.

Kudlow discussed the nation's economic resurgence under Trump that included job creation and wage gains that benefit U.S. workers while Hassett talked about the number of job openings and the skills gap. Ivanka Trump addressed the governor on the administration's workforce development initiatives, legislative priorities, and pledge to U.S. workers.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services administrator Seema Verma, Domestic Policy Council director Joe Grogan, DPS special assistant to the president Katy Talento, and National Economic Council SAP Brian Blasé talked on improving healthcare and drug pricing.

The discussions centered on ideas that would control healthcare costs and increasing competition, policies for a sustainable Medicaid program, ways that would give flexibility to stats in administering the said program, rural healthcare system challenges, and how to improve the healthcare partnership between state and federal government.

Transportation chief Elaine Chao and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross talked about infrastructure and industries of the future where they each discussed federal regulatory inefficiencies, permitting process that delay infrastructure projects, how federal money could be used to increase infrastructure investments, and how states address their backlogs.

"[The] president has repeatedly emphasized the need to invest in America's crumbling infrastructure, calling on Congress to pass a bipartisan infrastructure investment that will rebuild our crumbling roads, aging bridges, crowded airports, and deliver the 21st century infrastructure that Americans want," said the White House in a statement.

"The Trump administration has already made progress on streamlining the federal permitting of infrastructure projects through the One Federal Decision Making initiative."

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resolution that addresses the CNMI's unique needs and challenges."

"Gov. Torres will continue to work with our federal partners toward policies that will protect the CNMI's economic viability and benefit every single person who calls these islands home."

Labor and immigration are currently the hot issues in the Commonwealth right now after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services discontinued the CNMI categorical parole in December and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision that the Philippines is no longer eligible for the H-2B worker visa program.

Those who are affected by the categorical parole are spouses and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States and spouses or IRs of U.S. citizens; parents of U.S. citizen children who are either under or over 21 years old; CNMI permanent residents, and stateless individuals.

The CNMI has also been reliant on foreign guest workers with the Philippines being one of the top sources, especially in the construction trades. Filipinos are the largest group of foreign workers in the CNMI that also have laborers from Bangladesh, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Nepal. In recent years, U.S. and local hire have also increased.

The Philippines' one-year ban from using the H-2B visa had already caused problems to the Commonwealth with construction of several hotel projects slowing down. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is among the investors that encountered problems with the H-2B visa and was forced to send hundreds of Filipino skilled workers home in the last three months due to the DHS decision.

The Covenant established the CNMI in political union with the U.S. and it governs the relationship between both governments. Section 902 of the Covenant is the chance for representatives from both governments to meet and discuss issues that affect the relationship between the CNMI and the U.S.

The series of meetings became known as the 902 Consultations where after the talks the entire panel would submit a report and recommendation based on their discussions.

Torres sent a letter to Trump in October last year to request his approval to begin the Section 902 Consultations, citing the continuation on the Chinese discretionary parole authority. "The matter we need to consider is the CNMI's continued access to the China market, in a manner that is agreeable to the federal government and the survival of our economy."

"This issue is critically important to both our governments as it will affect the United States' relationship with CNMI and is in all honestly directly linked to the economic survival of the Northern Mariana Islands."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TOELKES

From Page 1

Toelkes, in a letter, said the story that came out on the *Saipan Tribune* was filled with defamatory statements made by Propst—who was sent a copy along with Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee chair Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

He then mentioned that their family had been accepting and completing construction projects in the Marianas and other Pacific Islands ever before Propst was born. "The Toelkes family in fact completed the first large construction project in the Marianas, the runway and taxiway at the [Francisco C. Ada] Saipan International Airport."

"We built that for the Trust Territory government, through our company American International Constructors. The Toelkes family has been working with CUC since 1987. IBCM, one of the family's companies, has provided power generation to CUC from satellite power stations located at Agingan Point, Isley Field, Power Plant II, Lowe Base, and the Rota Power Plant."

He added that their family and company have also been involved in several construction projects and power plant operations of up to 80 megawatts in the U.S. state of Alaska, the U.S. territories of the CNMI and Guam, and the Federates States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Toelkes also clarified that their companies had filed for bankruptcy before was a misleading statement. "Although technically correct, this was a misleading statement because it implied the companies were not capable of completing projects. In point of fact, the bankruptcy related to a contract with the Navy that in part ended up in court, and my family members were awarded $775,000 as whistleblowers by [District Court of Guam Chief] Judge [Frances] Tydingco-Gatewood.

He then attached a *Pacific Daily News* article that came out on Nov. 17, 2017 where William and Fred Toelkes filed a lawsuit against Toa Corp. of Japan in 2013 under the Federal False Claims Act.

Toelkes also refuted claims that their family company failed to finish a project at Guam's John F. Kennedy High School, have done something wrong in a generator purchase between CUC and General Pacific Marianas Inc., and that he was also implicated in the controversial MV *Luta* case. He then provided a building permit and certificate of completion of the JFK school project as proof.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

9TH CIRCUIT

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dance with law."

"The decision was rationally and reasonably based on a consideration of the factors relevant to complying with the diplomatic agreement with Japan while meeting the immediate training needs of the Marines," said Manglona in a 41-page decision and order that favored Defense and Navy.

The judge further finds that the actions decided on in the relocation final environmental impact statement (EIS) and supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the relocation of Marines in Okinawa to Guam, and the range and training areas proposed in the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement (CJMT) Draft EIS are not connected actions.

The Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity are suing Navy and Defense and their secretaries for alleged violation of NEPA APA over their decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

The lawsuit involves a procedural challenge to Defense and Navy's decisions to relocate thousands of Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to construct training and base facilities on Guam and Tinian that are necessary to meet their needs.

NMI

From Page 1

Torres, along with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Office of Insular Affairs director Nickolao Pula, U.S. Government Accountability Office International Affairs and Trade director Dr. David B. Gootnick, and Northern Marianas Business Alliance Inc. president Michael S. Sablan, testified in Wednesday's (early Thursday morning on Saipan) hearing for H.R. 560.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the vice chairman for Insular Affairs, introduced H.R. 560 that aims to give improved status to individuals who were affected by the decision of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to discontinue the CNMI categorical parole in December.

Those who are affected of USCIS' decision are spouses and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States and spouses or IRs of U.S. citizens; parents of U.S. citizen children who are either under or over 21 years old; CNMI permanent residents, and stateless individuals.

Torres said the CNMI's complex transition to the U.S. immigration system is an ongoing issue. "Since my last testimony before this committee, much has transpired in the CNMI's efforts to hire more U.S. workers, reduce our dependency on foreign workers, create an even playing ground for all workers to compete in, and create a viable economy in the Western Pacific."

He then thanked the committee members for supporting the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which extended the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Visa program. "This has provided much needed relief from the impending termination date of the CW-1 program and permitted the economy to continue to survive."

"This year would have seen half of the CNMI's workforce leave the island and a collapse of the economy if action was not taken. For this reprieve, and for your understanding of the unique circumstances facing our Commonwealth, thank you."

However, he has again faced the committee with almost the same problem. "We are here once again to discuss necessary amendments to the immigration provisions of our Covenant. The CNMI has just experienced the worst typhoon to hit our shores in generations. In fact, it was the strongest such storm to hit the United States since 1935. Winds exceeded 185 miles per hour."

"There is still much work to be done at home, but I feel it is necessary to be here to discuss this issue because we must take every opportunity we have available to us to spread the understanding that the needs of the CNMI people, are unique within the United States. We face challenges with geography and demographics that magnify our constraints, and we must deal with these challenges with far fewer resources."

Torres said provisions in H.R. 560 recognizes the CNMI's unique characteristics and the complex history that led to the community that it was today. "It highlights the fact that the transition period put into place in 2008 [Consolidated Natural Resources Act] is a work in progress in creating a system that avoids adverse impacts to our people."

He added that the CNMI lives on the effects made by the actions of the U.S. Congress. "We must deal with the decisions of our forbearers who crafted the Covenant, and their negotiated agreement to allow the young government of the Northern Mariana Islands the ability to grow its economy through local control of immigration."

"We live with the intended and unintended consequences of Public Law 110-229, which took that control away. And it is our responsibility to do what is right in the effort to meld three decades of local control with 10 years of experience within the transition period. To me that is what H.R. 560 works to accomplish."

Torres said that the transition period stated in the CNRA almost 11 years ago is not the finished product. "That we share in the responsibility to recognize areas of additional concern and rectify them in good faith with the best interest of the people of the CNMI in mind. The solutions presented in H.R. 560 are important but only comprise a piecemeal effort to respond to the unintended consequences of the transition period."

Torres has also testified with Leon Guerrero and the governors of Puerto Rico (Ricardo Roselló and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Albert Bryan) in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing chaired by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

OWWA heads to Saipan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Philippine government agency tasked with overseeing the welfare of its overseas workers would be heading to Saipan for the upcoming Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam's consular outreach mission on Saipan this Sunday.

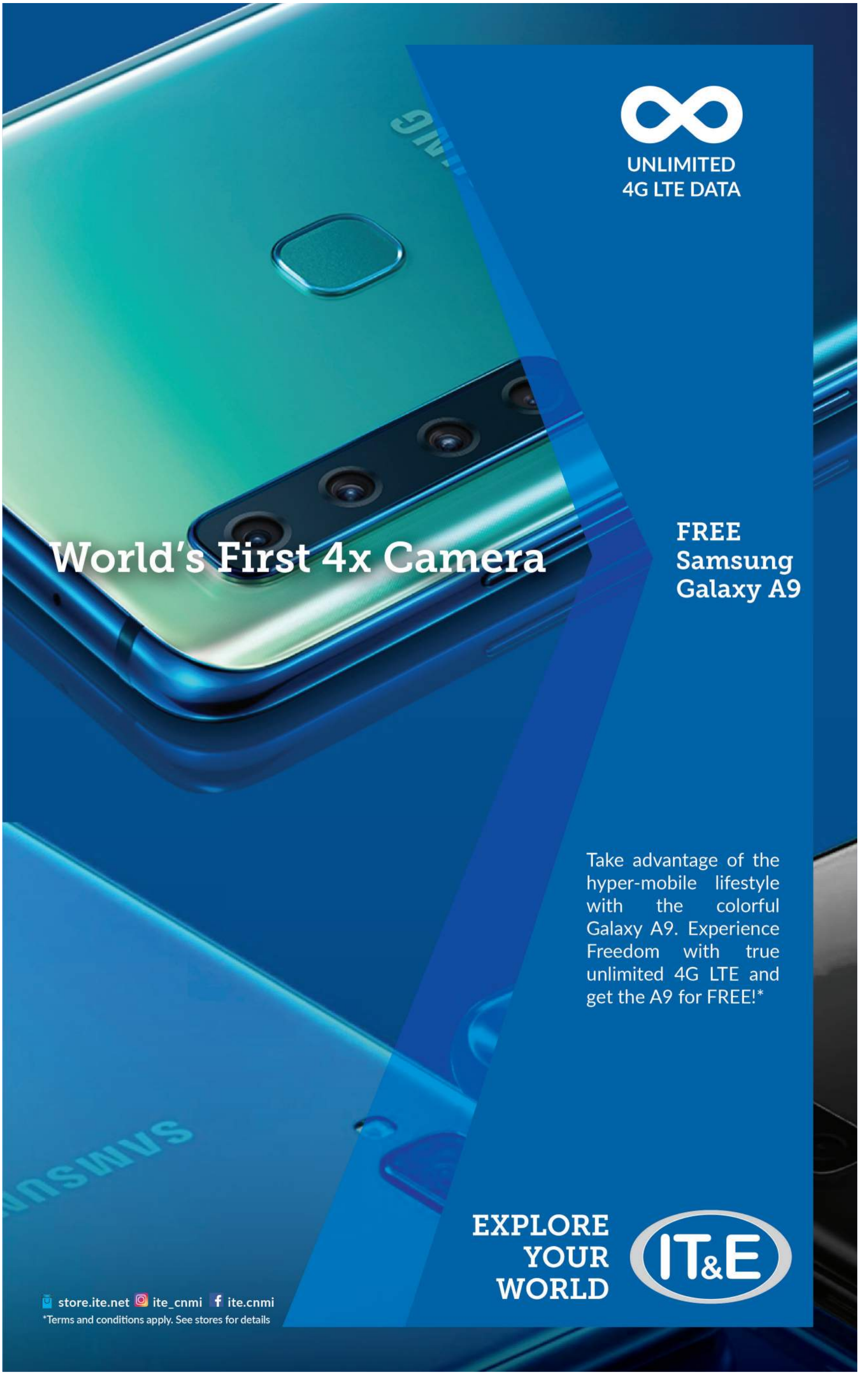
Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago yesterday confirmed that Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Atty. Evelyn Llanes would be arriving to Saipan to address the renewals of OWWA membership on Saipan during the consular outreach mission, which would be held at the Kristo Rai Parish social hall in Garapan from March 3, 2019 to March 5, 2019, 8am-4pm.

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Guam reminds those who are expecting their ePassports to show up at the venue on the date and times indicated in the schedule and to were the proper attires.

For consular services, including passport renewals, which require civil registration documents such as birth certificates and marriage certificates, documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority or from the former National Statistics Office will be accepted.

According to the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam's social media page, they are expecting a total of 420 instances of ePassport applications for Saipan over the three-day span at 140 applicants processed a day.

In an official OWWA memorandum of instructions No. 003, series of 2018, those who have had their OWWA membership enrolled or renewed should be submitted together with the Overseas Filipino Worker Membership form and a copy of the member's passport page showing personal data along with a valid residence permit, or a permit to stay for work, a permit to stay, or an employment authorization card; a proof of payment or contribution to the Social Security System of the host country; a pay slip issued by the employer, company, or manpower agency; a certificate of employment issued by the employer; or any other proof of employment as required to validate the OFW's continued presence and employment abroad.



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NMC to host additional info sessions in March

On Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, Northern Marianas College held an info session for interested community members looking to advance in their career. Individuals who were not able to attend Thursday's info session can attend either of the upcoming info sessions on March 7 and March 21, 2019.

The information sessions are open to all prospective students and community members. The session, which will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the NMC Olympio T. Borja Library at the College's As Terlaje campus, will also allow participants to register for classes immediately after the event.

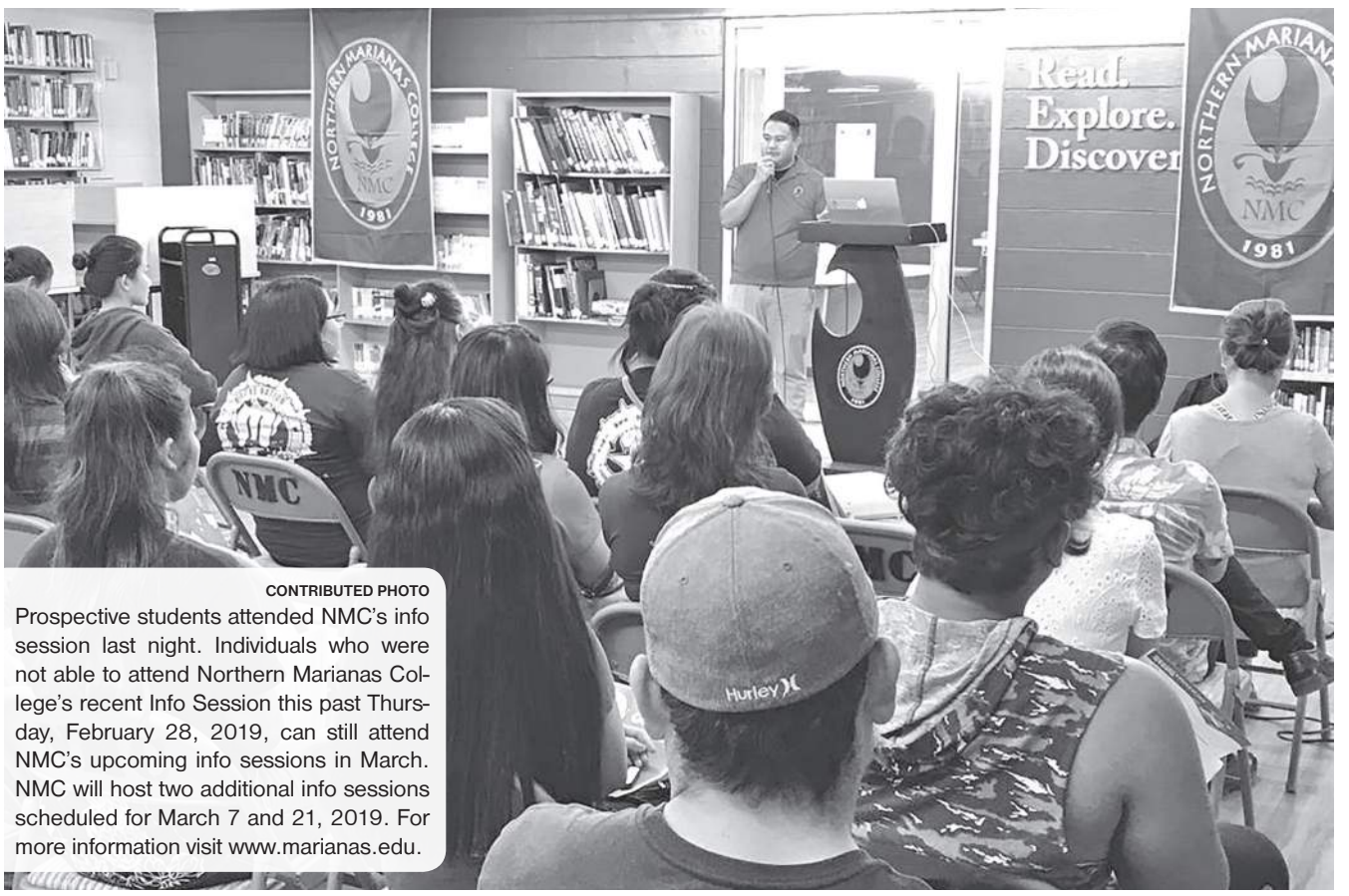
The topics that will be discussed include the College's degree programs, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, financial aid, and other initiatives.

Participants will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Spring 2019 semester, a savings of about $75.

NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, will be on hand to answer questions.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Prospective students attended NMC's info session last night. Individuals who were not able to attend Northern Marianas College's recent Info Session this past Thursday, February 28, 2019, can still attend NMC's upcoming info sessions in March. NMC will host two additional info sessions scheduled for March 7 and 21, 2019. For more information visit www.marianas.edu.

'Our Sense of Place' forum set for March 6

Precinct 2 Rep. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) invites the community to attend the next "Our Sense of Place" forum on Wednesday, March 6, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria, starting at 5:30pm. The event is a follow-up to the initial community planning gathering that Sablan hosted last October.

"One objective in this upcoming meeting is to present the interactive, online maps that have been created using the data and feedback we collected in October. Maps are a great tool for helping a community visualize important spaces, identify key issues, and make decisions," Sablan said.

She noted, however, that much has happened since that first meeting, particularly Super Typhoon Yutu and intensive recovery activities in Precinct 2. And some places and issues identified as important to the community in early October may have changed.

"So, we'd like to get more feedback, update our maps, and ask community members to share what they believe the priorities should be for restoring our neighborhoods in Precinct 2 and improving quality of life for all of us who live here," Sablan added.

Precinct 2 includes Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, and Fina Sisu. The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Rep. Sablan's office at 664-8829 or email rep.sablanc@cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

CEC sent 50 absentee ballots for special election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission had already sent a total of 50 ballots to absentee voters for the March 23 special election.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol disclosed yesterday that they received and approved a total of 53 requests for absentee ballots.

Igitol said they sent the first batch of 45 ballots last Tuesday, which was the deadline to apply for absentee voting by electronic/mail.

She said the following day, Wednesday, they sent the second batch composed of five more ballots.

Igitol said three absentee voters picked up their ballots at the CEC office in Susupe.

Igitol said they printed 4,038 ballots for this special election.

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters for Precinct 3. At the Nov. 13, 2018 general election, there were 3,795 voters for Precinct 3 and out of those number, 2,867 cast their votes.

A special election will be held following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month.

There are four candidates—former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party, Marco Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party, and independent candidates David Castro Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo.

The election will be held at the Garapan and Oleai Elementary Schools.

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on Feb. 26 to March 1, from 8am to 7pm, at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

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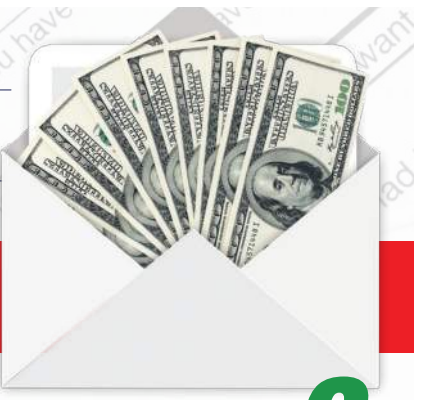

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Russian national sues FEMA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Russian national filed on Tuesday a lawsuit in federal court against the Federal Emergency Management Agency for allegedly finding him ineligible for some or all of the FEMA funds provided him after Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and demanding him to repay the money.

Milan F. Fargo, in a pro se complaint or without a lawyer, said the action of FEMA is illegal when in its letter dated Nov. 13, 2017 told him that his debt is now final.

Fargo attached in his complaint FEMA's letter, which according to him he only received last Nov. 8.

The letter says FEMA provided Fargo funds as a result of his application for disaster assistance. FEMA said it conducts audits of disaster assistance payments.

Fargo said FEMA told him that his debt is final because he did not file an appeal within 60 days upon receiving the notice of debt letter.

Fargo said the notice came to him on Oct. 1, 2018, but he was already stamped a violator of appeal rules since Nov. 13, 2017 or the day of issuance of the FEMA letter.

He said FEMA told him that if he does not take action within 30 days from the date of the Nov. 2017 letter, FEMA will submit his debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and that FEMA and Treasury will continue to add administrative charges, interest, and penalties to his unpaid debt until it is paid in full.

Fargo said in the eyes of FEMA, he did not take action starting on Nov. 13, 2017.

He said as a result of this deliberate FEMA interpretation, the original $2,990 he got, already has grown to $4,217.

He said FEMA even warned him that if he fails to pay the debt, he could jeopardize future disaster assistance.

Fargo said last Oct. 25, Super Typhoon Yutu brought huge damage to him, particularly his health.

He said his application for emergency assistance for damages after Yutu is very likely be denied by FEMA.

"How I am going to survive if FEMA refuses me assistance?" he asked.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with finality a lawsuit filed by Fargo against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for allegedly hiding documents related to his humanitarian parole.

Manglona noted that the failure to exhaust administrative remedies is apparent on the face of Fargo's complaint.

According to court records, the 65-year-old Fargo's original name is Nassir Nazarovich Kourbanov. He filed the lawsuit pro se against DHS to compel the agency to issue him immigration documents, including some documents from his alien file pursuant to FOIA.

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Spring renewal concert to benefit Karidat

On Friday, March 8, there will be a benefit piano concert at Mount Carmel Cathedral featuring local pianist HyeYeon Hwan and JC Clark. The concert will also feature a special guest performance by singer Stella Choi. Proceeds from the concert will go toward Karidat Social Services' ongoing recovery and relief efforts for Super Typhoon Yutu.

The principal organizer, HyeYeon Hwang, is a world class classical pianist who has been a resident of the island for the past five years who wants to lend her hand in the recovery effort.

"Recovery can include rebuilding of structures and restoring utilities but we must also rebuild our soul and restore our culture," Hwang said. "This concert hopefully will help in that regard. It has been over four months since the disaster hit, and there are still people without proper shelter or basic needs. I want to help bring comfort and hope to all through our music"

The concert will include classical and popular selections and some old jazz favorites performed by Mount Carmel School's very own JC Clark. It is sure to be an uplifting and exciting night for all. Tickets are $10 each and are available at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, the Karidat office, or at the door. ***(PR)***

NJSDA KNIGHTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School recently recognized her Knights that fared well in the recent regional competition for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association (NJSDA), along with their coaches Eleanor Alejo (far left), and Criselda Aldan (far right). Jill Mallari took 1st place in Declamation, 2nd place in Original Oratory, and 2nd place in Poetry. As a 1st place winner, Mallari will join 13 other speech and debate competitors to represent the CNMI at the NJSDA national competition in Dallas, Texas, this June. Renee Kiser (back row, far left) took 3rd place in Extemporaneous Speaking, 4th Place in Original Oratory, and 5th place in Duo Interpretation, which she shared with Kyla Monique Cabrera (front row, center). Regional finalists for the NJSDA also included Jhazmyn Nhicole Valiente (back row, center), Lezandra Miyuki Takayama (back row, far right), Ranier Solis (front row, second from right), and Kaitlyn Punzalan.

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Better Together

Through its "Buy-a-pack" program, every time someone buys a Shorty's bracelet, a slipper is generated and then donated throughout the Micronesia Islands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sustainable eco-brand expanding to Saipan

Shorty's opened its business in 2018 and has distributed more than 500 slippers so far. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shorty's, the sustainable brand whose accessories provide island children access to recycled slippers, is having its first distribution event ever on Saipan.

Through its "Buy-a-pack" program, every time someone buys a Shorty's bracelet, a slipper is generated and then donated throughout the Micronesia Islands. Shorty's opened its business in 2018 and has distributed more than 500 slippers so far.

Taking place this weekend, March 1 and 2, at Tribe Marianas on Saipan, Shorty's will be giving away their slippers to anyone under the age of 18. In addition to the promised slippers, Shorty's, in partnership with Ayuda Foundation, also will be giving away backpacks, school supplies, and other donated goodies to "help the islands' students bounce back" after Super Typhoon Yutu, so that they can finish the school year strong!

This event is a two-day pop-up shop highlighting Shorty's expansion into Saipan. With this event, they hope to connect with Saipan's environmentally conscious community.

When asked why they decided on expanding into Saipan, Shorty's founder, Kai Murrell replied: "There is this massive wave of environmental consciousness that is developing right here in the Pacific Islands. Shorty's is extending the invite—an invitation for the CNMI to not only join us on this wave of environmental awareness that we're riding, but to help us build it as well."

For more information, contact Shorty's founder, Kai Murrell, at 671-688-5704 or email at kaimurrell671@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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SIS celebrates inaugural AP Capstone Diploma Class

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Saipan International School's AP Capstone diploma candidate in Micronesia team with SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder.

On Friday, Feb. 22, 10 triumphant Saipan International School students mounted the stage at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater to take their final bows after presenting their team research projects. SIS juniors Malika Mirawaki, Anika Snyder, Andrea No, John Paul Sablan, Allan Lee, and Henry Qain were joined by their sophomore classmates Samantha Liske Clark, Maria Gregoire, Fredric Guintu, and Eileen No to form the first AP Capstone diploma candidate in Micronesia.

Unlike other AP classes, Capstone is a set of two courses, seminar, and research taken over two years. The step these students just took involves independent and team research into a real-world issue, individual research papers and a final team project, explained Dr. Ron Snyder to the community members invited to hear the presentations. The three teams tackled the issues of "How to reduce the incidence of rape in the USA," "How to reduce the rate of childhood obesity in the USA," and "How to mitigate the effects of pervasive drought in California."

For a full month the teams researched their topics from various points of view such as economic, political, social, historical, scientific, medical and ethical considerations. These students read legislation, pending bills, scientific studies, academic journals, newspapers, opinions by experts in the field, and leading magazines in order to gather as much credible data as possible. They used academic search engines such as EBSCO and shared in depth understanding of their research with their team members to create a complex view of the problem and weigh the impact of various solutions purposed by the experts. On average each student read, annotated and presented 10 to 12 sources with one student reading a whopping 25 sources to understand her topic better.

Once the research was done, the teams had to decide how to limit and discuss their topic in a 10-minute professional presentation. They prioritized information, separated ideas and worked on presentation skills that resulted in a coordinated, team effort. These presentations they shared with the community reflecting both their scholarship and SIS' commitment to 21st century skills of critical analysis, effective communication and collaboration with peers.

While they are not done with the AP class this year, all of the students felt the skills they developed during this project will help them with research in the future, including college-level work. ***(PR)***

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Red Cross responds to San Antonio fire victims

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers provided emergency assistance to the residents of a barracks fire in San Antonio.

"The entire housing complex was destroyed leaving families with only the cloths on their backs" said Joseph Jetnil, Disaster Action Team leader.

The Red Cross team worked into the night providing financial assistance for emergency housing, clothing, shoes, and personal care items. Chinese translation support was provided by Rose Chen and other volunteers.

"We helped in a small way 27 families begin their difficult recovery after losing everything" said J.D. Tenorio, Red Cross Disaster Program manager. "We are grateful to have the support of our volunteers and donors that make our work possible" said Tenorio

For more information about the Red Cross and its programs, call 234-3459. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The local Red Cross chapter has assisted the victims of the barracks fire in San Antonio.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
 A. Call to Order
 B. Roll Call
 C. Adoption of Agenda
 D. Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
 E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
 A. Executive Director's Report
 B. Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report

IV. Old Business
 A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply – Rota
 B. Status of Monthly Billings and Recent Payments
  1. Commonwealth Healthcare Center
  2. Commonwealth Ports Authority
 C. CUC Overall Survey

V. New Business
 A. Gas Station Kiosks for Payments
 B. Amend Policy on Net Metering
 C. APPA & AWWA CNMI Training/Seminar
 D. CUC Assets and Performance Audit
 E. Corporate Masterplan
 F. BOD Directive to Compel Information Sharing From any Employee with BOD
 G. Basic Cost of Service Study
 H. Budget Call for FY2020

VI. Personnel Committee Report by Committee Chairperson
VII. Telesource Contract
VIII. Executive Session*
 (Discussions on sensitive personnel and administrative matters)
IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on March 15, 2019, from 10:00am to 12:30pm at the Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of March 15, 2019
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2018

V. Reports
 a. Chairperson
 b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business
 a. Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Awareness Campaign Update

VII. New Business
 a. DDEAM 2019
 b. Accessible Documents Training (WebAim)
 c. 2019 Disability Sports Fest

VIII. Action Items
 a. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid
 b. Ratify/Approval of Proposed FY 2020 CDD/AT Program Local Budget
 c. Ratify/Approval of FY 2019 DD Basic Grant Budget
 d. Ratify/Approval of FY 2019 CNMI AT Program Grant Budget

IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting – April 2019
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
 Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of March 01, 2019
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Pacific Subsea SPN	02/20/2019 SPI-2019-X-01	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Approved 02/22/2019*
2. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	02/26/2019 SLRm-2019-X-015	Inwater Maintenance	Lower Base, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review 03/01/2019*
3. M/V Super Emerald LLC	02/26/2019 SPIm-2019-X-016	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Approved 02/27/2019*
4. Isa Villas Partners, LLC	02/28/2019 SMS-2017-X-111, Amendment 2019-1	Major Construction-Existing	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review 02/28/2019*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Filipino YouTuber to headline Tumon Bay Music Festival event

The 15th Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival will run from Feb. 28 to March 9, 2019 at various locations in Guam. This year's festival features over 120 performances by soloists, small groups, bands, orchestras, and choirs of all ages featuring musicians from Guam, Saipan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, and California.

Rafael

The complete schedule can be viewed at tbmfguam.org

Concerts on Feb. 28, March 1, 4, and 5 require admission. All other concerts are free and open to the public. For tickets, visit tbmfguam.ticketleap.com

Famous California-based Filipino YouTuber/musician/composer A.J. Rafael will headline the Festival outdoor pop concert—JAZZ, ROCK & BEYOND—on Sunday, March 3 at the Ypao Amphitheater. This event will feature a few of Guam's established bands, the 721st Army Rock Band, and several student groups from Guam and Saipan. This is free and open to the public.

Still want to be part of the festival? No problem, join the Festival Collaborative Ensembles which include the Guam Honor Band, the Tumon Bay International Wind Orchestra, the new Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and Concordia Tumon Bay (festival massed choir). We have an ensemble for singers and instrumentalists of all ages and experience levels. Rehearsals will take place on March 6-8, from 6pm to 9pm at Okkodo High School. Please e-mail tbmf.admin@gmail.com for more information about joining. All group will perform for the Festival Finale Concert on March 9 at the Micronesia Mall.

For more information, you can contact director of Public Relations, M. Landon Aydlett at 671-777-5337 or email landonaydlett@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

TOBACCO USE & PREGNANCY

EFFECTS ON BABIES

01 PREMATURE BIRTH
Smoking during pregnancy can cause a baby to be born too early. This can result in low birth weight. Premature birth is a leading cause of death, disability, and disease among newborns.

02 SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)
Babies of mothers who smoke during and after pregnancy are 3 times more likely to die from SIDS. SIDS is the sudden and unexpected death of a baby less than 1 year old.

03 CLEFT LIP OR CLEFT PALATE
Babies of mothers who smoke during pregnancy are more likely to be born with a cleft lip or cleft palate. These birth defects occur when a baby's lips or mouth do not form properly during pregnancy.

04 OTHER BIRTH DEFECTS
Smoking during pregnancy can also cause other birth defects, like heart defects, clubfoot, and a birth defect of the abdominal wall where the baby's intestines exit through a hole beside the belly button.

05 SECONDHAND SMOKE
Babies exposed to secondhand smoke have weaker lungs than other babies. They are also more likely to have asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and die from SIDS.

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https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/tobaccousepregnancy/index.htm
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basis_information/health_effects/pregnancy/index.htm

TOBACCO USE & PREGNANCY

EFFECTS ON WOMEN

01 CONCEIVING
Women who smoke have a hard time getting pregnant and have a higher risk of never becoming pregnant. Difficulties getting pregnant also increases as a woman gets older.

02 PROBLEMS WITH THE PLACENTA
The placenta can separate from the womb too early, causing bleeding, which is dangerous to the mother and baby. The placenta can also cover the cervix, causing complications called placenta previa.

03 MISCARRIAGE
Chemicals in tobacco smoke can cause an unexpected loss of pregnancy before the 20th week of pregnancy. For example, carbon monoxide can keep the developing baby from getting enough oxygen.

04 E-CIGARETTES/VAPE
E-cigarettes and other products containing nicotine are dangerous for pregnant women and unborn babies. They are NOT SAFE to use during pregnancy. Nicotine is harmful to the baby's brain and lung development.

05 SECONDHAND SMOKE
Pregnant women who breathe in other people's smoke can get sick and are more likely to have a baby with low birth weight. There is NO SAFE LEVEL to exposure to secondhand smoke.

READY TO QUIT SMOKING IN THE NEXT 30 DAYS?
Call the Tobacco Quitline at 323-QUIT (7848)
and consult with your doctor if
Nicotine Replacement Therapy is right for you.

Quitting smoking is the best thing you can do for you and your baby's health!

https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/tobaccousepregnancy/index.htm
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basis_information/health_effects/pregnancy/index.htm

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Compared to other Republicans, Tillis looks downright brave

Whether he's a big believer in the Constitution or just terrified of a President Bernie Sanders with unchecked power, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis got it right Tuesday on President Trump's so-called national emergency at the Mexican border.

North Carolina's junior senator split from most of his fellow Republicans in Washington by announcing he would oppose Trump's emergency declaration when a House resolution comes to the Senate floor. It was a crucial decision, because four Senate Republicans must defect for the resolution opposing Trump's move to pass. Tillis was just the second to do so.

Tillis was so unequivocal in his Washington Post op-ed that it's hard to imagine him wiggling out of his pledge now. If more or fewer than four Republicans oppose Trump, Tillis will surely follow through. But given his past record of being firmer with his words than his actions, it's worth watching to see what he does if he's the critical fourth swing vote.

Trump is exerting extraordinary executive power to try to bypass a Congress that didn't give him the funding he wanted for his border wall. Given that there is no true national emergency, it's likely an unconstitutional power grab. It also sets a precedent that Republicans will surely rue when a Democrat moves into the White House and declares a national emergency for something the GOP opposes.

"This is about the separation of powers and whether Congress will support or oppose a new precedent of executive power that will have major consequences," Tillis wrote in the Post. "As a U.S. senator, I cannot justify providing the executive with more ways to bypass Congress. As a conservative, I cannot endorse a precedent that I know future left-wing presidents will exploit…"

Tillis pointed out that conservatives opposed President Obama's executive overreach when he unilaterally imposed protections for certain undocumented immigrants in 2014. Both Trump and now-Vice President Mike Pence said at the time that Obama was overstepping his authority, with Trump saying it could be an impeachable offense. (This editorial board also said Obama should have gone through Congress.)

"There's no intellectual honesty in now turning around and arguing that there's an imaginary asterisk attached to executive overreach – that it's acceptable for my party but not thy party," Tillis wrote.

That's an admirable consistency that we're not seeing from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, who have both flip-flopped on the question, or from Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who has not taken a stand and did not respond to a request for comment from the Observer editorial board Tuesday.

Tillis began his op-ed by fully supporting Trump's immigration policy goals, and vowed to help secure tens of billions of dollars for border security. That's a step back in tone from his earlier calls for bipartisan solutions to immigration reform.

It's also surely an element of Tillis's political calculations as he eyes his reelection campaign next year in a decidedly purple state. He wants to stand in the center when he can, such as opposing Trump's power grab, while not alienating the conservative base. At least he's half right.

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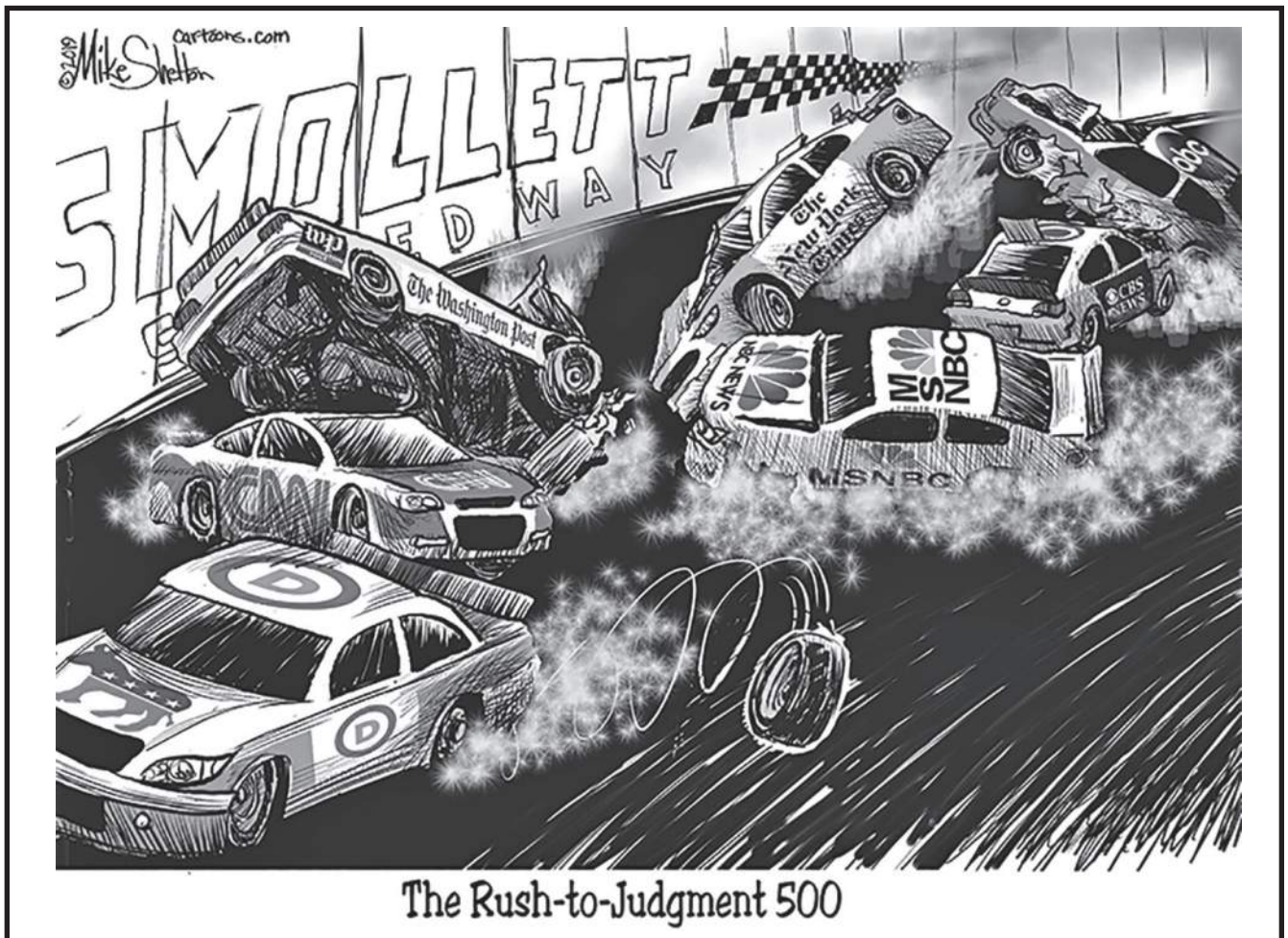

President Trump's swampy Cabinet

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

In the Teapot Dome scandal during Warren Harding's presidency, Interior Secretary Albert Fall became the first Cabinet member ever convicted and jailed. During Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal, three Cabinet members, five top White House aides and the vice president were convicted of various crimes — and the president forced to resign.

But the Trump administration threatens to beat all prior records for misdeeds by Cabinet members. Besides the recurring issues surrounding the president and the charges against top campaign officials and advisers, four Cabinet members have been forced to resign so far due to ethical questions, and another three are under investigation.

Rather than clearing the swamp, the Trump team seems to have fallen into it.

The public focus on the president, his campaign and his private finances — epitomized by this week's congressional hearings featuring former Trump attorney Michael Cohen — has obscured the extent of ethical questions involving so many top appointees. And this does not include legal challenges to many controversial policy decisions.

Other reasons include the lack of congressional oversight during two years of Republican control, something that is changing now that the Democrats control the House, and the administration's own willingness to abide ethically questionable officials, some picked after insufficient vetting.

Besides their extent, the biggest difference between the Trump scandals and those of past administrations is that they don't stem from a single, related series of misdeeds, like Teapot Dome (the secret leasing of government oil reserves) or Watergate (the break-in of Democratic Party headquarters and Nixon's role in covering it up). These cases are essentially separate, though a number involve similar issues, like misusing government funds or breaking conflict-of-interest rules.

The past week has seen significant developments in two current probes. According to The Washington Post, prosecutors are presenting evidence to a grand jury investigating if former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lied to federal investigators.

The case stems from a probe into his rejection of a petition by two Indian tribes to operate a commercial casino in Connecticut. Zinke resigned in December amid multiple ethics probes stemming from real estate dealings in Montana and environmental decisions benefitting commercial developers.

Also last week, a federal judge ruled that prosecutors including Alexander Acosta, now the labor secretary, violated the law in a 2008 plea bargain involving a billionaire accused of molesting young girls. The Justice Department is investigating the case at the request of Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska.

Earlier this month, the independent Office of Government Ethics refused to certify Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's annual financial disclosure report because he hadn't sold bank stock he contended he had. Ross, one of the Cabinet's wealthiest members, said he mistakenly thought the stock had been sold.

Ross's slowness in divesting personal holdings, including one that netted him a large financial gain, has raised repeated ethical questions. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, asked the Justice Department to review his disclosures for "potential criminal violations."

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson and Secretary of Education Betsy Devos also face ethical questions.

HUD's inspector general said it was investigating the role of Carson's family members in the agency's activities after The Washington Post reported the secretary allowed his son, Ben Carson Jr., to help organize an official listening tour to which potential clients of his employment managing and consulting business were invited.

Earlier, Carson abandoned a plan to buy a $31,000 dining set for his office with public funds after it became public.

The OGE delayed certifying Devos' annual disclosure report for six months after questions arose about her promised disposition of assets. Critics have questioned departmental decisions benefitting groups with which she had connections including selecting a former investment to help collect overdue student loans, a deal potentially worth millions of dollars.

Besides Zinke, ethical questions precipitated the departure of three other Cabinet members. Former Georgia Rep. Tom Price resigned as secretary of health and human services amid multiple inquiries over his spending more than $1 million on travel combining official business with leisure.

Scott Pruitt resigned as head of the Environmental Protection Administration facing probes on issues ranging from renting a room in a townhouse owned by an energy lobbyist's wife to numerous government-financed trips to his home state of Oklahoma.

See CABINET on Next Page

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Got competence?

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Here's a term that puts some academic weight behind an age-old truth: the "Dunning-Kruger effect."

I noticed the term in a recent missive about a public administration issue in Guam. I don't have any stake in that issue, but the notion of the Dunning-Kruger effect stuck with me. It serves to put a name on a phenomenon that we've all seen but that's often difficult to describe.

The effect is named for a pair of Cornell academics, David Dunning and Justin Kruger, who published a psychological study in 1999: "Unskilled and Unaware of It: How Difficulties in Recognizing One's Own Incompetence Lead to Inflated Self-Assessments."

The gist is that weaker minds tend to have unrealistically generous opinions about their abilities. They not only have delusions of adequacy, but they have delusions of superiority, with the very bottom of the bunch seeing themselves as well-above the average. Dunning and Kruger measured these traits in various ways. The report is easily available on the Web, so if you want to dig into the numbers, they await your attention. In the meantime, I'll note that the study summary says that, overall, the subjects in the 12th percentile rated their abilities in the 62nd percentile.

As dramatic as that result is, the study might actually understate the effect. That's because the subjects were all students at Cornell, and Cornell draws from the top of the intellectual deck. I don't know if anyone has run the same study from a broader sample of participants. Maybe somebody did and wound up running away, shrieking in despair, never to be found again.

Anyway, moving back to the basic gist, this whole subject is nothing new, of course. It's as old as human nature itself.

Identifying this trait is one thing, but learning to manage its effects in work and life is not always easy. Some of my friends, professionals who aspire to be well beyond the indignity of having to suffer fools, get utterly exasperated when they're up against examples of the Dunning-Kruger effect.

I long ago made my peace with it, or I have to the extent that it's not gnawing at my leg at any particular time. I'd like to ascribe my indifference to a graceful air of a high-mindedness, but it's more likely rooted in a joke I heard when I was about 15.

The joke went like so: A football player bit the fingers off an opponent whose hand wound up inside the player's facemask. When asked to account for his actions, the player said, "Everything on the outside is theirs. Everything on the inside is mine."

It wasn't a belly-laugh joke, but the player's practice of yielding to all but the most proximate of contexts strikes me as elegant philosophy. With the Dunning-Kruger effect in mind, we know that stubborn incompetence has always been an element in human affairs, so if you're hoping to purge the world of its presence before you can feel happy, or if its mere existence makes you feel angry or annoyed, you're not going to be a happy camper.

This really is a ripe topic for playing devil's advocate.

For example, we're holding an implicit assumption that being competent is preferable to being incompetent. But is this logic really sound? Are competent people necessarily happier in life?

We do have to acknowledge that there are substantial costs and sacrifices involved in obtaining certain types of competence. Consider, for example, the top professions. Earning the magic letters after your name often involves the stress and struggle of academic competition, and/or military training, and/or professional training. In the aggregate these elements can gobble up an entire decade. Once you're finally rolling and can take a bit of a breather, when you decide to take the first real vacation you've ever had in your entire life you might realize you're already 30 years old.

Meanwhile, competence in the lettered realms generally goes hand in hand with conscientiousness, which means putting principled notions ahead of your immediate self-interest. In this realm the hardest pressure is the pressure you put on yourself. I'm not bemoaning the gig, I'm just pointing it out.

After enduring the competition, the stress, the sacrifices, and the changing economic dynamics of their fields, I've known many competent professionals who have thrown up their hands, said enough is enough, and who simply walked away from it all. Some found their ways to Saipan. Some others wound up elsewhere in the tropics.

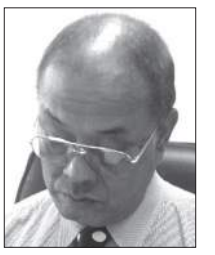
I am reminded of the situation faced by my favorite anti-hero, Capt. Yossarian, from the WWII novel *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller. Yossarian is the bombardier in a B-25 bomber. He is up against the fact that crew members adjudged mentally competent to fly are going to get shot at by the enemy, while those adjudged not mentally competent for duty won't be flying, and, hence, won't be getting shot at. Sanity, therefore, can be a deadly condition.

Anyway, those are my random observations about the Dunning-Kruger effect. Many articles have been written about it. So how did mine compare? Well, I'd say it's in the 62nd percentile or so. Like, yeah, pretty good, huh?

Lucky I Live Da Kine Island!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Reportedly, nearly 15,000 employees here are earning poverty income level in wages and salaries, annually. The federal poverty guideline is $15,000-$42,000 per year. It's a 40-year-old issue we wish to solve via the newspapers.

Nevertheless, this year politicians can't escape scrutiny on this issue with the "business as usual" attitude. The notice is loud and clear: income is way too low where more than half of the employees are literally struggling to make it to another day.

Is this clear enough or do we need to defer to the KISS concept to explain it at the rudimentary level? It's sheer family hardship from A-Z! Sorry for my deficit in subtlety and grace. But I tell it "like it is" even brutally, sayu?

Reality check tells us that it would need more than $630 million help the 15,000 employees earning poverty income at this point. How would the elected elite meet this need?

Overspent: Evidently, news account yesterday pointed out that the NMI overspent by $22.7 million that resulted in a $25.9 million deficit. Is economic contraction on the way, if not, already?

Income has stagnated for four decades while costs of basic needs have taken to the skies. It needs major infusion and we trust that our esteemed men of wisdom on Da Hills of Saipan would have the answer soon.

The cost of living is even higher on Rota and Tinian. Mind numbing how these folks have survived if it weren't for our culture of compassion and generosity.

Evidently, what's the median income here? The national average is about $53,000 per year and the amount differs per state.

Obviously, the local culture of compassion and generosity has shielded how folks with poverty income actually pull through the day. Sharing!

Regional: I'm on a limb on global issues. But I'd research and peruse it for ideas of events taking place near and far. It matters in that as remote as some issues may be unfolding events could have serious consequences even in as unlikely a place like the NMI.

Wesley Pruden, editor in chief emeritus of the *Washington Times*, wrote an interesting observation about the future close to being dead.

"An outbreak of locusts of 'biblical proportions' is spreading through Africa, from the Sudan and Eritrea on to the Red Sea and to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, eating everything in sight and plinking their ugly little carcasses on roofs, tents and windows, as if in unholy concert.

"Huge swarms of the little beasties have been compared to the 10 plagues of Egypt, as set out in the Book of Exodus to describe how God punished Egypt after the pharaoh refused the demand of Moses to let his people go."

"Something similar is on the way now to North Africa, says Keith Crossman, the locust expert at the United Nations.

"The next three months will be critical to bring the locust situation under control before the summer breeding starts." And there's more: Frogs and fish are falling from the sky over Malta.

"There are scientific explanations for such phenomena, but there are many other things for which there is no explanation but the mischief of man (and of course the lady of his house). There may be a very secular lesson in the air for many mighty nations, including ours." Very unsettling!

Ooops: There seems to be a pandemic of redundancy as to establish a new political status commission to review U.S.-NMI relations.

Wasn't the 902 consultation the vehicle established for this purpose? Did you ever review its report? Why the duplicitous pile-on? Isn't Kilili our voice in DC? Have you communicated with him on issues you find relevant?

What did you find in the current "permanent" arrangement so egregious that it merits reconsideration of USPL 110-229? You've heard of the concept of "ascendancy of laws," right? Could the legislature amend USPL 110-229?

Contraction: It may be clandestinely muted but the facts would bear it out sooner than later—the huge economic contraction that has negatively affected local revenues. I'm sure we could feel this setback intuitively.

The humongous loss from the storms and exit of Nippon investments has started to show unsettling tidings in budgetary shortfall. It may mean the eventual imposition of austerity and furlough. Hope this doesn't happen for the hardship would be devastating for families all over.

Unless there's marked expansion of private industries anytime soon, we're stuck with what we could collect in pennies, nickels and dimes. I thought the lights are on; is anybody home?

CABINET

From Page 14

Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin resigned — or was fired — after an inspector general's report accused him of "serious derelictions" on a 10-day trip to Europe with his wife combining official business and leisure events. A dispute over privatizing some VA activities was also involved.

His designated successor, former White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson, withdrew after allegations he drank on the job and dispensed large amounts of prescription drugs, issues that remain under investigation by the Pentagon's inspector general.

However, the Treasury Department's inspector general ruled Secretary Steven Mnuchin did not violate any laws in taking seven flights costing more than $800,000 on government-funded planes but said he should provide more detail for future requests.

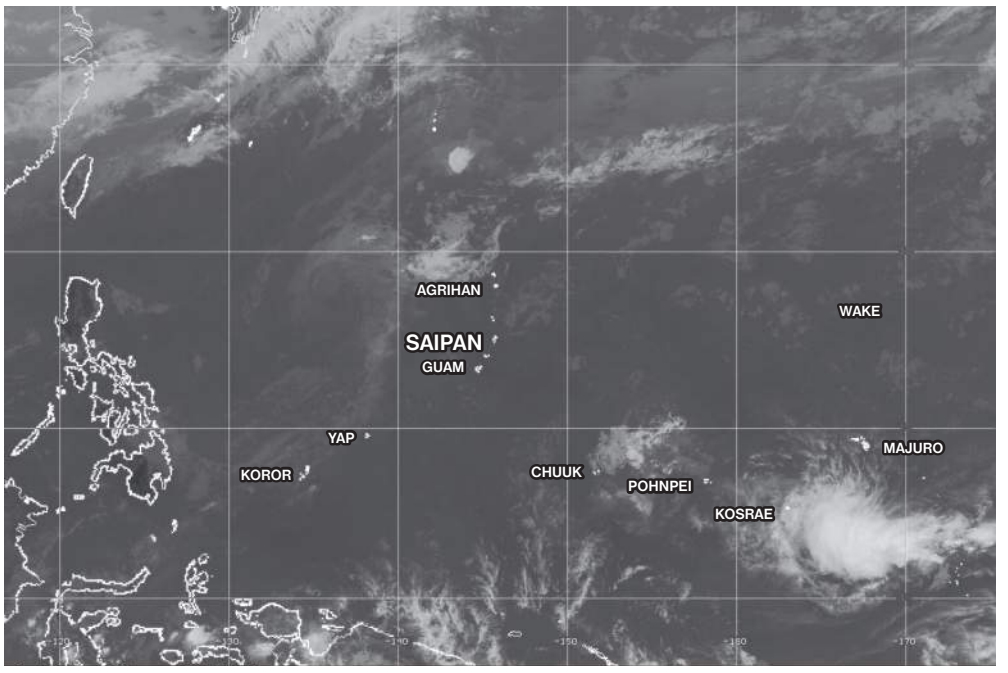
It looks like that swamp still needs to be cleared.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86º 76º	87º 76º	88º 77º	87º 77º	87º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters organized as a line that is over Guam at this time, and west of all the other islands. The VAD wind profile indicates winds from just south of east at 12 to 21 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal seas of 4 to 6 feet composed mainly of trade-wind waves and swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Showers	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	72° / 61°
Beijing	Cloudy	61° / 36°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	75° / 68°
Honolulu	Cloudy	76° / 62°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 45°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	64° / 53°
Manila	Sunny	91° / 72°
Melbourne	Sunny	97° / 73°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 71°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 36°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 45°
Busan	Cloudy	55° / 48°
Rome	Showers	63° / 46°
Salem	Showers	75° / 57°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 45°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	40° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.59
10:34 AM	LOW TIDE	1.24
3:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
11:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:30 AM	2:03 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	2:52 PM	-
Sunday	4:06 AM	3:42 PM	-
Monday	4:51 AM	4:31 PM	-
Tuesday	5:33 AM	5:20 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

Last week, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club staged its production of *Tasi*, a musical story about the Marianas featuring music from the islands. The show was a huge success with standing-room only, sold-out performances, raving reviews, and an audience that loved the show. The cast and crew members were phenomenal with top-notch acting, moving songs and choreography, a well-crafted production design, and even quite a bit of humor along the way. Everyone laughed, everyone cried, and everyone had a great time. All in all, it was a fitting way to celebrate culture, cherish our environment, and honor our family values.

Given the show's huge success, I felt it would be important to thank and recognize the many people and organizations that contributed, in one way or another, to the production. If it takes a village to raise a child, it then takes a whole island community to produce a show like this.

First, as we always do at Mount Carmel School, we thank all mighty God for gracing us all with the spirit to tell this important story. We also thank Bishop Ryan Jimenez, + Bishop Emeritus Tomas Camacho, Mount Carmel School's Board of Directors, Mount Carmel School Administrators, Faculty, and Staff, AlumKnights and the Mount Carmel School family, and audience members for supporting our Theatre Club and the show. In a special way, we also thank the parents of cast and crew members for their untiring support and for lending us their talented children.

Second, we owe special thanks to Rose Soledad, Janice Tenorio, Natasha Tomokane, and everyone at IT&E for their generous financial support of the production. We are also grateful for a grant made possible by Robert Hunter, the CNMI Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Parker Yobei, and the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture.

Third, the artists on stage and back stage in this production were supported by distinguished artists in their own right. Donald Mendiola lent his cultural and linguistic expertise to translating many aspects of the show. JC Clark helped our music director record music just for the show. And Leeani Villagomez and her Sophomore Art class designed and crafted many of the set and props pieces on stage. For these artists, we owe our thanks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Fourth, a number of businesses and individuals contributed to specific aspects of the show. John Saludez and HBR International were instrumental in building the show's set pieces. Ann Zapata, Dominic Travilla, and everyone at Pacific Islands Club ensured that the venue was accommodating for our show. The following individuals and companies also contributed to key elements of the show: Jung's Variety Shop, Chay Aspa & R&M Printers, Ed Calvo, Jun Mamporte, and Is-

See THANK YOU! on Next Page

The cast of *Tasi*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF ROUTINE PROGRAM CHANGE

From the CNMI Coastal Management Program of the CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management

DATE: March 1, 2019

NOTICE OF APPROVED PROGRAM CHANGES: Pursuant to 15 CFR § 923.84 (Federal Coastal Zone Management Act Regulations), notice is hereby given that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) has reviewed a routine program change (RPC) request submitted on September 18, 2018 by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) that incorporates changes made to the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code, Title 15, Chapter 10, into the CNMI Coastal Management Program (CMP).

OCM has concurred that the changes are RPCs and has approved the incorporation of the changes as enforceable and non-enforceable policies of the CNMI CMP. Changes to the following have been approved:

NMIAC § 15-10-005 Authority*
NMIAC § 15-10-020 Definitions
NMIAC § 15-10-025 Conflicts with Regulations of Other CNMI Government Agencies*
NMIAC § 15-10-101 Types of Permits and When Permits are Required*
NMIAC § 15-10-105 APC Permits for Minor and Other Developments
NMIAC § 15-10-115 APC, Multiple APC, and Major Siting Permits*
NMIAC § 15-10-120 Exceptions from CRM Permit Requirements*
NMIAC § 15-10-201 CRM Permit Process – Introduction*
NMIAC § 15-10-205 Permit Application Procedures*
NMIAC § 15-10-206 Permit Application Contents*
NMIAC § 15-10-207 Certificate of Completion of Application*
NMIAC § 15-10-215 Review of Application*
NMIAC § 15-10-220 CRM Permit Hearing*
NMIAC § 15-10-225 Filing of Documents*
NMIAC § 15-10-230 Decision on the CRM Application*
NMIAC § 15-10-235 Appeal of the CRM Permit Decision*
NMIAC § 15-10-240 Commonwealth Superior Court*
NMIAC § 15-10-301 General Standards for All CRM Permits
NMIAC § 15-10-303 Standards to Avoid Adverse Impacts
NMIAC § 15-10-305 General Criteria for CRM Permits
NMIAC § 15-10-310 Specific Criteria: Areas of Particular Concern; Generally*
NMIAC § 15-10-311 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Required
NMIAC § 15-10-315 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Lagoon and Reef
NMIAC § 15-10-320 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Managaha and Anjota
NMIAC § 15-10-325 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern, Coral Reefs
NMIAC § 15-10-330 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Wetlands and Mangroves
NMIAC § 15-10-335 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Shorelines
NMIAC § 15-10-345 Specific Criteria; Areas of Particular Concern; Coastal Hazards
NMIAC § 15-10-350 Height, Density, Setback, Coverage, and Parking Guidelines
NMIAC § 15-10-405 Procedure*
NMIAC § 15-10-505 Specific Criteria for Major Sitings
NMIAC § 15-10-610 Mandatory Conditions
NMIAC § 15-10-701 CRM Permit Amendment*
NMIAC § 15-10-705 Transfer of Interest*
NMIAC § 15-10-805 Grounds for Action*
NMIAC § 15-10-810 Warning*
NMIAC § 15-10-815 Permit Enforcement Notice*
NMIAC § 15-10-820 Enforcement Action and Suspension*
NMIAC § 15-10-825 Permit Hearing Enforcement*
NMIAC § 15-10-830 Remedies*
NMIAC § 15-10-905 Investigation*
NMIAC § 15-10-930 Enforcement Hearing*
NMIAC § 15-10-1201 CRM Public Records: Retention*
NMIAC § 15-10-1205 Public Access to CRM Records*
NMIAC § 15-10-1310 CRM Access to Records: Public Records*
NMIAC § 15-10-1500 Federal Consistency*

The complete list of approved changes to the CNMI CMP, along with OCM's full review of the RPC, is available on the Federal Consistency page of the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/. Changes marked with an asterisk (*) do not contain enforceable policies that can be used for Federal Consistency.

Federal consistency will apply to the changes approved by OCM as enforceable policies as of March 1, 2019. For questions regarding this notice, please contact DCRM at (670) 664-8300 or FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LI, GUIHONG) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION
vs.) NO. 19-0013
ZENG,)
ZHAOSHENG) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB, 538 Box 10003 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 21 day of February, 2019

/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios. Lt Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **March 04, 2019 (Monday), beginning at 10:00 a.m.**, at the CNMI Board of Parole Office Building 1216, located at Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner.

I. Parolee

1. **VICENTE Q. TERLAJE**
   Cr. Cs. No.: 15-0065B/15-0100
   B.O.P. No.: 17-005

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 644-3300 or 644-3302.

Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

Feb 25, 2019
Date

THANK YOU!

From Page 17

land Apparel. The following media outlets also helped with news coverage of the show: Gary Sword, Rosemond Santos Sword, Gordon Marciano, and KKMP; Zaldy Dandan, Lori Lyn Lirio, and *Marianas Variety*; Jayvee Vallejera, Erwin Encinares, and *Saipan Tribune*; Fr. Jason Granado and the *North Star*; and Chris Nelson, Ashley McDowell, and KSPN2 News.

Fifth, last, and definitely not the least, we thank our amazing cast and crew members for shining on and off stage as true dramatic professionals. While the list of the cast and crew members is long, it is worth recognizing every single person for the talent, creativity, and passion that they invested into the show.

CREW

Director: Kalea Lou Bullan Borja

Assistant Director and Assistant Stage Manager: Brandee Hunter

Music Director: Jan Bobadilla

Choreographers: Jaeleen Aldan, Rosalia Pangelinan, Karen Sato, and Mariana Tenorio

Stage Manager: Quincy Mikaila Chinen

Assistant Stage Manager: Maria "Ria" Terlaje

Art Director: Joanie Paraiso

Assistant Art Directors: Connie Zhu and Katherine Woodruff

Art Crew: Tasi Camacho, Giselle Ivy Leong, and Christine Mago

Hair and Makeup Supervisor: Velma Deleon Guerrero

Hair and Makeup Crew: Ydylle Acosta, Rosa Castro, Erika Cunanan, Christine Mago, and Joanna Pangelinan

Assistant Music Director: Larry Cruz

Floor Manager: Justin Ocampo

Assistant Floor Manager: Mikee Mendoza

Technical Director: Angelo Manese

Sound Board Operator: William Blake Deleon Guerrero

Technical Support: William Año

Floor Crew: Kyle Bautista, Gary Camacho, Raymalyn Guanlao, Maverick Irang, Eric Jang, Dayna Macaranas, Matt Moran, Reica Ramirez, Earl Tabora, and Theresa Toves

Business Manager: Jaden Yamagata

Ushers: Princess Alcantara, Sinahi Cepeda, Shaina Lee, Katelyn Rabang, Vince Salvador, Kloney Virreym and Brian Youn

Assistant Theatre Club Advise: Aysia Adele Duenas Santos

The crew of *Tasi*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAST

Tasi: Kina Dela Cruz

Tano (Tasi's father): John San Nicolas

Rastro (Tasi's aunt and Unai's sister): Kalyn Diaz

Guafi (Tasi's uncle and Tano's brother) Larry Cruz

Unai (Tasi's mother): Aysia Adele Duenas Santos

Hale (on the Island Council): Christian Guerrero

Brasu (on the Island Council): Sean Ancheta

Hagon (on the Island Council): Vidal Sablan

Dinga (on the Island Council): Brent Ortizo

Daddek(on the Island Council): Dylan Santos

Mangga (on the Island Council)/Young Tano: Daniel Camacho

Dolphin/Young Unai: Jessiana Tenorio

Dolphins:

Asa Backe
Kyla Cabrera
Kesil Camacho
Valerie Estella
Brissa Hunter
Elise Maratita
Maili Peter

Island Children:

Ainsley Ancheta
Caleb Aldan
Oscar Buenaflor
Cali Cabrera
William Cano
Jada Chang
Latisha DeJesus
Heleyna Dela Santa
Quimari Duenas
Clint Irang
Audrein Jennifer Mallari
Laizza Mallari
Ayanna Matsumoto
Naomi Matsumoto
Donnie Militante
Tricia Palacios
Jadine Pangelinan
Joseph Pangelinan
Kaeli Pathil
Jake Regalato
Lewnyce Regalato
Sierra Reyes
Donald Tagabuel
Quince Tizon
Gavril Santiago
Mehgan Villagomez
Sage R. Villagomez

Every single one of these cast and crew members did their part to bring the magic of *Tasi* to the stage and to our community. They are all to be commended for giving their heart and soul to the show.

Above all, I appreciate the family that is the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club, where a 1st grade student can work alongside Seniors and AlumKnights to tell compelling stories on stage and in film. This family is near and dear to my heart and the hearts of everyone in that family. And as one of the show's mantras goes, "Ni hayi hu falingu. Ni hayi hu umalefa." "No one is ever lost; no one is ever forgotten." In my heart, you, my dear Theatre Club family, will never be lost; you will never be forgotten.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero
Mt. Carmel Principal

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-006

KAGMAN WATERLINE AND BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, on the installation of a new booster station to replace the existing Kumoi pump station. The work also includes and connection of a new 8-inch PVC transmission line and a new 6-inch PVC distribution line complete with all necessary valves, fittings, and appurtenances. It will also involve the rehabilitation of the existing deep well KG-131 and the reconnection of all customers onto new or existing waterlines within the project area. The Contractor shall complete the work in accordance with the plans, specifications and terms of the contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-006- Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation,"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer at email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of installing new service saddles, corporation stops, PVC service lines from the CUC water main to the meter, replacing defective water meters, installing new service laterals and new water meters, properly sizing existing service lines, installing a water meter on existing CUC service lines without a meter, relocating existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, reconfiguring the orientation of water meters to easily identify customers, removing existing manifold systems, and as required, installing new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing. It may also be required to connect existing service lines to a new meter and/or house piping.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2019,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Procurement Administrator

Resolution recognizes Robert Camacho for 34 years of service

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam International Airport Authority police chief Robert D. Camacho was recognized yesterday with a resolution from the 35th Guam Legislature's Committee on Air Transportation.

As chairwoman of the 35th Guam Legislature's Committee on Air Transportation, vice speaker Telena C. Nelson presented Resolution No. 44-35 to Guam International Airport Authority police chief Robert D. Camacho on his retirement after 34 years of service.

Nelson stated: "Robert Camacho is a shining example of what we hope every government employee strives to be. We thank him for the more than three decades he's guarded our community in his various capacities, and for keeping the people of Guam safe."

One of 12 children to parents Pedro Alvarez Camacho and Josefina Blas Camacho, Camacho grew up in Mongmong. He gave 11 years of service in the U.S. Army, where he earned numerous accolades and awards. A symbol of public safety, Robert Camacho later served the community through leadership positions at the Department of Corrections, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, Guam Police Department and lastly as the A.B. Won Pat International Airport's police chief from September 2009 to February 25, 2019. He is married to Pauline Camacho and has three children: Robert, Ria, and Isa.

During the resolution presentation yesterday at the Guam Congress Building, Robert Camacho made the following statement on his retirement:

"I want to dedicate this to my mom, who taught me never to quit, and to serve others. I would also like to dedicate this to my family, who've been there for me throughout this time, and the many men and women who have been so instrumental in my career and supported me as a leader at different agencies. When I was reading my resume, looking at all these things, it really went by so fast. All I did was put my nose to the grindstone and saw where I could be of help, and where I could shine light on people's lives. I hope that's how people will remember me, that I did my best to serve the community and my country."

Resolution No. 44-35 will be transmitted to the Office of the Governor for review. For more information, contact the Office of Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson at senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org or (671) 989-7696. ***(PR)***

Military to conduct training at former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada from noon to 11:55pm on Feb. 28.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course.

This type of training is designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

2019 Youth Conservation Corps internships available

This summer, American Memorial Park will once again will host the Youth Conservation Corps program and will be accepting applications through March 28, 2019 by close of business.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program that helps develop participating youths understanding of our nation's heritage and the environment. YCC participants will engage in a wide variety of conservation and park operations activities that will teach them about our National Park and the National Park Service's mission to protect special places for all.

The park will hire between two to six youth in the YCC program at the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands minimum wage. The program will run for up to eight weeks, from June 11 to Aug. 3, with participants working up to 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. Enrollees must be at least 15 years of age by June 10, 2019 and no older than 18 on August 3, 2019. To apply, applicants must fill out an application and if not 18 years of age, have a parent's or guardian's signature. The randomly selected program participants will be contacted by program coordinator Theo Chargualaf.

Applications can be picked up Monday through Friday, from 9am through 5pm, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The deadline for applications is 4pm on March 28. For questions about the YCC program please contact Theo K. Chargualaf at (671) 477-7278, extension 1005 or email address at: theo_chargualaf@nps.gov. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-008

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-008 –Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Trades Instructors Wanted

- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Masonry
- Automotive
- Heating Ventilation & Air-conditioning
- Welding
- Power Generation

If you are interested,
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FOR ADJUSTMENT IN FY 2018 RUM EXCISE TAX

Interior announces $2.2M payment to USVI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Insular and International Affairs, presented U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr. $2,228,901 which represents an adjustment to the actual certified rum excise tax amounts for FY 2018. Certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, this amount represents the final rum excise tax payment owed to the U.S. Virgin Islands for the 2018 fiscal year.

"These funds are critical to the USVI government," said Domenech, "and the Interior team has been working to conclude the transfer of funds today."

Adjustments are calculated based upon amounts advanced from rum excise taxes derived from the USVI and collected by the federal government under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 USC 1541). Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI-manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI.

Each year, the USVI government submits an advance estimate of rum excise taxes to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for a "cover-over" payment to be made in September of each fiscal year. An initial advance payment of $223,925,000 for FY 2018 was paid in September 2017. The total and actual amount certified for 2018 rum excise taxes collected for the U.S. Virgin Islands comes to $226,153,901—this week's payment of $2,228,901 makes up the difference.

The secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) executes these responsibilities. OIA's mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Stacey Plaskett, Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr., Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech at the 2019 Interagency Group on Insular Areas Senior Plenary Session.

Interior supports students from US insular areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Insular and International Affairs, announced $86,450 in funding support for students from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states towards the Junior State of American (JSA) program. Seventy-five high school students will participate in the Insular Areas Youth Civic Engagement's Academic Preparation and Community Project Boot Camp.

"We are proud to support these top high school students from the U.S. territories and freely associated states as they strive to further develop their reading, writing, speaking, and leadership skills," said Domenech. "Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has supported this program for nearly thirty years. Many of the past participants hold leadership positions in the islands today."

After a one-week academic preparatory program, 75 students from the insular areas will attend a three-week summer school program on the campuses of Georgetown, Princeton, or Stanford where part of the program includes development of a community project program applicable to their respective islands.

The program is run by the Junior State of America (JSA), which has partnered with the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, to provide civic education and leadership training opportunities for more than 2,300 high school students for nearly three decades. The student participants come from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the freely associated states—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA supports the Secretary's mission of Fulfilling Trust and Insular Responsibilities through balancing efforts and limited resources towards stronger economic and health capacities, and fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas. ***(PR)***

Extensive OT, minimum wage, child labor violations at Hawaii malls found

HONOLULU, HI—The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that an education and enforcement initiative by its Wage and Hour Division (WHD) focused on retail mall employers in Hawaii, recovered $698,120 in back wages and liquidated damages for 339 employees, and led WHD to assess $59,523 in civil penalties for child labor violations during Fiscal Year 2018.

The investigations completed as part of this initiative found that more than half of businesses investigated failed to pay retail employees legally required overtime when they worked beyond 40 hours in a week. WHD investigators also found that more than half of the retailers that employed minors at mall locations violated Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) child labor provisions when they allowed the minors to engage in work prohibited for workers under 18 years old, such as loading or operating trash or cardboard compactors.

"The U.S. Department of Labor remains committed to educating employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities so that young workers remain safe on the job, all employees get paid what they have legally earned, and employers compete on a level playing field," said Wage and Hour Division District Director Terence Trotter, in Honolulu. "We encourage employers to view the results of this enforcement and education initiative as an opportunity to review their own practices, and to make any corrections necessary to come into compliance."

Outreach and education efforts conducted as part of this effort included meetings with school counselors, training mall tenant representatives, and providing compliance assistance directly to mall management companies.

Notable results of the WHD's FY2018 initiative in Hawaii include:

■ $239,889 to 44 employees after investigators found that six Ramen-Ya restaurant locations in Honolulu, Kapolei, and Pearl City and one in Kahului failed to pay overtime when employees worked beyond 40 hours in a workweek;

■ $89,565 to 12 employees after four Regal Food Inc. locations in Honolulu malls failed to pay the required minimum wage and overtime. The employer also failed to maintain adequate time records;

■ $33,346 to five employees after Julie Z Restaurant Filipino Home Style Cuisine at Kapolei Marketplace in Kapolei failed to pay overtime for hours worked beyond 40 in a week;

■ $76,932 to 10 employees after three Thai-Lao Restaurants locations in Honolulu, Pearl City, and Kapolei failed to pay overtime to kitchen staff; and

■ $7,060 in penalties were assessed to Gyu-Kaku Japanese BBQ at Windward Mall in Kaneohe for allowing four minors to load a trash compactor.

Employers that discover overtime or minimum wage violations may self-report and resolve those violations without litigation through the PAID program. For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division, contact the Division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Information is also available at https://www.dol.gov/whd including a search tool to use if you think you may be owed back wages collected by the Division. ***(PR)***

Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop in Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering specialized training to provide advanced understanding of the hazards posed by improvised explosives and potentially dangerous chemicals.

The "Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop" is intended for both Guam and CNMI public safety officials, law enforcement partners and people who work in the chemical industry. This includes suppliers of pool chemicals, beauty supplies and home improvement materials.

The workshop will include a classroom presentation and an outdoor explosive demonstration on the effects of conventional and improvised explosives. The training will underscore the potential dangers of particular chemicals, both in the hands of terrorists as well as juvenile experimenters.

The one-day workshop will be offered on both Wednesday, April 17, and Thursday, April 18, in Mangilao.

There is no cost to attend, but there is limited seating. Those interested in attending should submit their name, workshop date preference, telephone number and email address, company/agency name and job title to tdmcabrera@fbi.gov and jjkowatch@fbi.gov. ***(PR)***

Business

On summit sidelines, N. Koreans study Vietnam's economy

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Senior members of North Korea's delegation to Hanoi for Kim Jong Un's summit with President Donald Trump took a side trip Wednesday to visit one of Vietnam's most successful conglomerates.

Kim has several senior foreign and economic advisers with him in Hanoi and gleaning insights into ways to improve the North's economy appears to be high on their list of priorities.

As Kim stayed behind to prepare for the summit, a motorcade with former Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong, who is now the ruling party's top foreign policy adviser, and O Su Yong, a ruling party vice chairman and director of its Economic Affairs Department, traveled by car to the port city of Hai Phong, about 105 kilometers (60 miles) east of Hanoi, for a tour of Vinfast, which is part of the Vingroup, Vietnam's largest conglomerate.

Kim's visit for the two-day summit with Trump is seen as a good chance for Vietnam to show him that a war-ravaged Communist country can produce billionaires by launching reforms to attract foreign trade and investment.

While Kim wasn't in the motorcade, much of the route was lined with Vietnamese and North Korean flags. Hundreds of engineering students waved as the limousines entered the factory complex.

Trump has also made a point of how he hopes Kim will follow Vietnam's example.

"Vietnam is thriving like few places on earth. North Korea would be the same, and very quickly, if it would denuclearize," he tweeted on Wednesday before his first meeting with Kim. "The potential is AWESOME, a great opportunity, like almost none other in history, for my friend Kim Jong Un."

Vietnam is one of fastest growing economies in Asia and the Vingroup is one of its flagship successes.

Vinfast's businesses range from real estate development, hospitals and education to car manufacturing, agriculture, retails and resorts. Its operation in the Dinh Vu industrial park in Hai Phong uses technology from BMW and Bosch, among others, and is expected to start rolling out cars later this year.

Pham Nhat Vuong, chairman of Vingroup, ranked 499th in Forbes' world's richest people's list, worth $7.8 billion as of Feb. 24, 2019 and is Vietnam's richest man. The Forbes list includes three other Vietnamese.

Earlier in the day, the North Korean officials visited Quang Ninh province, location of the UNESCO world heritage site Ha Long Bay and about a half-hour's drive from Hai Phong.

Like Vietnam, North Korea is trying to tap tourism as a potential major income source.

A big drawback for the North is its restrictive regulations on what tourists can do and where they can go. Since Trump took office there has been a travel ban on all non-essential trips by U.S. citizens.

The North may be hoping to see that ban lifted if the summit talks go smoothly.

AP

Students of Vinfast Training Center holding Vietnam and North Korea national flags as they prepare for the arrival of a senior North Korean delegation at VinFast, an automotive startup manufacturer in Hai Phong, Vietnam Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019.

US official: Much work remains to reach US-China trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S.-China trade agreement is far from completion and will require much more work, particularly on enforcement, the U.S. official negotiating the pact told a House panel Wednesday.

"Much still needs to be done before an agreement can be reached," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said. "If we can complete this effort, and again I say if, and can reach a satisfactory solution to the issue of enforceability ... we might have an agreement that turns the corner in our economic relationship with China."

President Donald Trump held out hope earlier this week that an agreement could be reached when he said "substantial progress" had been made after negotiations that went through the weekend. Trump also announced that he would postpone a scheduled March 2 increase in tariffs on $200 billion of Chinese imports, from 10 percent to 25 percent.

But Lighthizer's testimony suggested the two sides are still far apart. The trade representative also said the administration is pushing for structural changes in China, including an end to cyber theft of U.S. commercial secrets, limits on state support for Chinese companies, and an end to the forced transfer of technology from U.S. companies as a condition of accessing China's markets.

At stake, Lighthizer said, is whether the United States or China will dominate the industries of the future. "The U.S. has the best technology in the world," he said. "It's probably our single biggest competitive advantage and why we'll be No. 1 for a long time if we protect our intellectual property."

China, he said, "knows full well that it's the key. Technology is what's going to determine who rules the future."

China has previously offered to make major purchases of U.S. goods, such as soybeans and natural gas, in an effort to resolve the conflict that followed the administration's imposition of tariffs on Chinese products.

But Lighthizer said such steps wouldn't be enough.

"The issues on the table are too serious to be resolved with promises of additional purchases," he said. "We need new rules."

Lighthizer also said it will be critical to have tough enforcement provisions in any agreement because China has typically not kept its past promises.

"I can point to many examples" of China's government signing onto an agreement, "and in very few cases have they actually kept their obligations," he said.

Members of Congress from both parties were supportive of Lighthizer's efforts and expressed approval of the Trump administration's confrontational approach.

Lighthizer "has time and again developed a vision that many of us on this committee will support vigorously," said Rep. Richard Neal, Democrat from Massachusetts and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Walmart is getting rid of greeters; disabled workers worried

As Walmart moves to phase out its familiar blue-vested "greeters" at some 1,000 stores nationwide, disabled workers who fill many of those jobs say they're being ill-treated by a chain that styles itself as community-minded and inclusive.

Walmart told greeters around the country last week that their positions would be eliminated on April 26 in favor of an expanded, more physically demanding "customer host" role. To qualify, they will need to be able to lift 25-pound (11-kilogram) packages, climb ladders and stand for long periods.

That came as a heavy blow to greeters with cerebral palsy, spina bifida and other physical disabilities. For them, a job at Walmart has provided needed income, served as a source of pride and offered a connection to the community. Now Walmart, America's largest private employer is facing a backlash as customers rally around some of the chain's most visible and beloved employees.

Walmart says it is striving to place greeters in other jobs at the company, but workers with disabilities are worried.

Donny Fagnano, 56, who has worked at Walmart for more than 21 years, said he cried when a manager at the store in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, called him into the office last week and told him his job was going away.

"I like working," he said. "It's better than sitting at home."

Fagnano, who has spina bifida, said he was offered a severance package. He hopes to stay on at Walmart and clean bathrooms instead.

Theresa Sours, an 81-year-old greeter with heart failure, said she desperately needs her Walmart job to help pay for her medicine and mortgage. Sours, of Stuart, Florida, who's worked for the chain for more than 18 years, said her manager told her they had no other openings suited to her ability.

"I never thought they would do this. I feel like I'm thrown to the wolves," Sours said. Her sister-in-law, Cecilia Appleby, was even more blunt: "They've done her wrong. They've done her absolutely wrong. They just don't like the handicapped."

Walmart greeters have been around for decades, allowing the retail giant to put a friendly face at the front of its stores. Then, in 2016, Walmart began replacing greeters with hosts, with responsibilities that include not only welcoming customers but helping with returns, checking receipts to deter shoplifters and keeping the front of the store clean. Walmart and other chains have been redefining roles at stores as they compete with Amazon.

The effect of the greeter phase-out on disabled and elderly employees—who have traditionally gravitated toward the role as one they were well-suited to doing—largely escaped public notice until last week, when Walmart launched a second round of cuts.

As word spread, first on social media and then in local and national news outlets, outraged customers began calling Walmart to complain. Tens of thousands of people signed petitions. Facebook groups sprang up with names like "Team Adam" and "Save Lesley." A second-grade class in California wrote letters to Walmart's CEO on behalf of Adam Catlin, a disabled greeter in Pennsylvania whose mother had written an impassioned Facebook post about his plight. Walmart said it has offered another job to Catlin.

In Galena, Illinois, hundreds of customers plan to attend an "appreciation parade" for Ashley Powell on her last day of work as a greeter.

"I love it, and I think I've touched a lot of people," said Powell, 34, who has an intellectual disability. She once rescued a 3-year-old boy who'd wandered into the parking lot and led him back to his parents at checkout.

Nation

Cohen says Trump inflated his wealth in bid to buy Bills

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Cohen said during his congressional testimony Wednesday that Donald Trump grossly overstated his wealth before becoming president, including inflating his assets during a failed bid to buy the Buffalo Bills in 2014.

The claim raises questions about whether Trump could face even more legal trouble if, as Cohen said, he misrepresented his worth in applying for a loan to buy the NFL team.

Experts said a criminal case against Trump appears unlikely for several reasons. But Cohen's latest assertions could affect the court of public opinion at a time when lawmakers are discussing the possibility of impeachment.

Trump was one of three known finalists in the bid to purchase the Bills in the summer of 2014 following the death of franchise founder and Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson. He lost out to the owners of the NHL's Buffalo Sabres, Terry and Kim Pegula, who purchased the Bills for $1.4 billion. The third group was led by rocker Jon Bon Jovi.

Cohen, once Trump's lawyer and one of his closest advisers before he pleaded guilty to tax crimes, fraud, lying to Congress and campaign finance violations, testified for hours Wednesday before the House Oversight Committee.

As part of the effort to buy the Bills, Cohen said, Trump gave financial statements to Deutsche Bank in hopes of getting a loan.

The documents, which Trump provided to the committee, said Trump's net worth was $4.55 billion in 2012 and soared to $8.66 billion in 2013 because of the addition of a line item for $4 billion worth of "brand value"— essentially the value Trump placed on his name.

AP

Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, reads an opening statement as he testifies before the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019.

Cohen told lawmakers Trump inflated his wealth "when it served his purposes, such as trying to be listed among the wealthiest people in Forbes," even as he deflated assets to reduce his real estate taxes.

He didn't go into specifics as to how the financial statements provided to Deutsche Bank were inaccurate or offer evidence backing his assertion they were inflated.

Duncan Levin, a former federal prosecutor, said Cohen is accusing Trump of a crime similar to mortgage fraud, a common offense in which a home buyer lies about his assets to get a loan.

"What he is laying out is something that is not only criminal but the type of behavior that authorities investigate and prosecute every day," Levin said. "It's a bread and butter offense."

If what Cohen said is true, he added, the president could be charged under federal law for wire and mail fraud or under New York state law for what is called "causing a false filing." Such cases usually involve instances where the borrower gets the loan, but that isn't required for all prosecutions.

The Trump Organization didn't immediately respond to an email or call Wednesday.

A Deutsche Bank spokesman declined to comment and would not say whether the bank has been contacted by investigators.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment.

The statute of limitations—five years for most federal offenses—could preclude a prosecution. Trump could theoretically face criminal bank fraud charges if prosecutors could prove Trump intended to deceive with financial statements and that the bank relied on those figures, said John Coffee, a law professor at Columbia University.

Company leaders are faulted in outbreak that killed 11 kids

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A federal report says a viral outbreak that killed 11 children at a New Jersey nursing home was made worse because those in charge didn't plan for such an outbreak and didn't react fast enough.

The Record reports the pediatric medical director of the Wanaque Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation didn't know how many children were infected with adenovirus or what his job entailed at the time of the outbreak last fall.

The deficiencies in leadership "contributed to the delay in identification and containment of (the) adenovirus outbreak, affecting 33 residents (and) one staff, and resulted in 11 pediatric resident deaths," the report said.

Center Administrator Rowena Bautista says the report by regional offices of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is "riddled with factual inaccuracies and blatant misstatements." She says the center has appealed the findings and will "vigorously dispute" the allegations.

"We are infuriated that, after a cursory review, federal surveyors put together a report riddled with factual inaccuracies, disregard of medical judgment, and blatant misstatements about how viruses spread," she said in a statement.

The 114-page report was written on Nov. 17. The inspectors visited the Wanaque center during the peak of the outbreak on Nov. 13 through 17. The center has 92 beds for children and 135 for elderly residents.

No new cases of the virus have been reported at the center since Nov. 12. But the state still bars new admissions to its pediatric ventilator unit.

Adenovirus usually poses little risk for healthy people. It can cause mild cold or flu symptoms, and some strains also cause diarrhea and pinkeye.

The strain found in the Wanaque rehab center outbreak is called type 7 and is among the more potent types. It sometimes causes more serious respiratory illness, especially among those with weak immune systems.

Asia

Trump, Kim summit ends without reaching a deal

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un cut short their second summit Thursday without reaching an agreement, a stunning collapse of talks that caused both leaders to leave their Vietnam meeting early and cancel a planned signing ceremony.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said the leaders had a "very good and constructive meeting" and discussed ways to advance "denuclearization and economic driven concepts." She said their teams "look forward to meeting in the future.

Both leaders motorcades roared away from the downtown Hanoi summit site within minutes of each other after both a lunch and the signing ceremony were scuttled. Trump's end-of-summit news conference was moved up and White House aides said he would address the sudden change in plans.

The breakdown came just hours after Trump and Kim appeared to inch toward normalizing relations between their still technically-warring nations as the American leader tamped down expectations that their talks would yield an agreement by the reclusive country to take concrete steps toward ending its nuclear program.

In something of a role reversal, Trump deliberately ratcheted down some of the pressure on Pyongyang, abandoning his fiery rhetoric and declaring he was in "no rush. We just want to do the right deal."

Kim, for his part, when asked whether he was ready to denuclearize, said "If I'm not willing to do that I won't be here right now."

Furthering the spirit of optimism, the leaders seemed to find a point of agreement moments later when Kim was asked if the U.S. may open a liaison office in North Korea. Trump declared it "not a bad idea" and Kim called it "welcomable." Such an office would mark the first U.S. presence in North Korea.

But questions persisted throughout the summit, including whether Kim was willing to make valuable concessions, what Trump would demand in the face of rising domestic turmoil and whether the meeting could yield far more concrete results than the leaders' first summit, a meeting in Singapore less than a year ago that was long on dramatic imagery but short on tangible results.

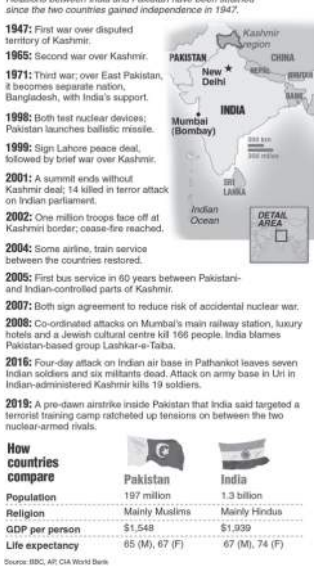
Pakistan, India trade fire in Kashmir; villagers flee homes

MUZAFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—India and Pakistan exchanged gunfire through the night into Thursday morning in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, a day after Islamabad said it shot down two Indian warplanes and captured a pilot.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, though jetfighters roared overhead through the mountainous region as villagers along the so-called Line of Control fled to safety.

Meanwhile, members of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharitiya Janata Party called for more military action, suggesting the conflict still could worsen. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan had called for talks between the two nuclear-armed rivals in a televised address Wednesday, saying: "Considering the nature of the weapons that both of us have, can we afford any miscalculation?"

World powers have called on the nations to de-escalate the tensions gripping the contested region since a Feb. 14 suicide car bombing killed over 40 Indian paramilitary personnel. India responded with an airstrike Tuesday inside Pakistan, the first such raid since the two nations' 1971 war over territory that later became Bangladesh.


Old rivals India and Pakistan
Relations between India and Pakistan have been strained since the two countries gained independence in 1947.
1947: First war over disputed territory of Kashmir.
1965: Second war over Kashmir.
1971: Third war; over East Pakistan, it becomes separate nation, Bangladesh, with India's support.
1998: Both test nuclear devices; Pakistan launches ballistic missile.
1999: Sign Lahore peace deal, followed by brief war over Kashmir.
2001: A summit ends without Kashmir deal; 14 killed in terror attack on Indian parliament.
2002: One million troops face off at Kashmiri border; cease-fire reached.
2004: Some airline, train service between the countries restored.
2005: First bus service in 60 years between Pakistani- and Indian-controlled parts of Kashmir.
2007: Both sign agreement to reduce risk of accidental nuclear war.
2008: Co-ordinated attacks on Mumbai's main railway station, luxury hotels and a Jewish cultural centre kill 166 people. India blames Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba.
2016: Four-day attack on Indian air base in Pathankot leaves seven Indian soldiers and six militants dead. Attack on army base in Uri in Indian-administered Kashmir kills 19 soldiers.
2019: A pre-dawn airstrike inside Pakistan that India said targeted a terrorist training camp ratcheted up tensions on between the two nuclear-armed rivals.
PAKISTAN
CHINA
New Delhi
INDIA
Mumbai (Bombay)
SRI LANKA
Indian Ocean
DETAIL AREA
How countries compare
Pakistan
India
Population 197 million 1.3 billion
Religion Mainly Muslims Mainly Hindus
GDP per person $1,548 $1,939
Life expectancy 65 (M), 67 (F) 67 (M), 74 (F)
Source: BBC, AP, CIA World Bank

India also said it shot down a Pakistani warplane, something Islamabad denied.

Pakistan's military later circulated a video of a man with a mustache who identified himself as the Indian pilot, sipping tea and responding to questions, mostly by saying, "You know I can't answer that." He appeared in good health as he was questioned about his hometown, his aircraft and his mission.

Both Indian and Pakistani officials reported small-arms fire and shelling along the Kashmir region into Thursday. Government buildings in Muzafarabad, the capital of the Pakistan-controlled section of Kashmir, were used to provide shelter to those who fled from border towns.

Indian army spokesman Lt. Col. Devender Anand described the intensity of the firing as "lesser" than previous nights.

Authorities in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir closed all schools and educational institutions in the region and are urged parents to keep their children at home amid mounting tension with neighboring India. Pakistan's airspace remained closed for a second day Thursday, snarling air traffic.

Meanwhile, India's finance minister, Arun Jaitley, suggested at a news conference Wednesday that Indian special forces carry out secret missions to capture terrorist leaders in Pakistan, invoking the 2011 U.S. Navy Seal operation to kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

World

US seeks UN vote for new Venezuela election, needed aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— The United States is calling for a vote on a U.N. resolution urging "the peaceful restoration of democracy" in Venezuela, free and fair presidential elections, unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to all people in need — and making clear its support for opposition leader Juan Guaido.

The draft resolution is expected to be put to a vote Thursday afternoon, a council diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of an expected announcement. But it is likely to face a veto from Russia, which backs Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the May 20 election that kept him in power.

The proposed resolution, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, also expresses "deep concern" at "the violence and excessive use of force by Venezuelan security forces against unarmed, peaceful protesters" and "recent attempts to block the delivery of humanitarian aid."

At a Security Council meeting Tuesday, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia called the weekend attempt by the Venezuelan opposition to carry in aid shipments from Colombia nothing but a "humanitarian show" created by the United States. He said the Trump administration's sole aim is "regime change, including with threats to do so via foreign intervention" in violation of the U.N. Charter's principle of non-interference in the affairs of another country.

Elliott Abrams, the U.S. envoy for Venezuela, shot back: "I reject from start to finish, I reject from top to bottom, accusations of military interventions from a country that is occupying the territory of Georgia and Ukraine."

Before the council meeting, Abrams told reporters that U.S. policy "is to use as much diplomatic and economic and political pressure as we can" along with the dozens of countries backing Guaido "to support the Venezuelan people's desire for democracy."

The U.S. draft resolution to be voted on makes some significant changes from the administration's initial draft, in what one diplomat called an attempt to address Russian concerns.

Russia had circulated a rival draft resolution "expressing concern over the threats to use force" against Venezuela and "to intervene" in its domestic matters. Its draft reaffirmed that international disputes should be settled peacefully and urged that the Venezuelan situation to be settled "through peaceful means."

The initial U.S. draft's only mention of "peace" was to recognize "the disruption to peace and security in the region caused by the actions of a regime that have caused an economic collapse." More than 3 million Venezuelans have fled their homeland in recent years in search of food, medicine and opportunities elsewhere in the region.

The final U.S. draft doesn't mention the use or threatened use of force but it does make several references to peace.

It "calls for the start of a peaceful political process leading to free, fair and credible presidential elections." It "supports the peaceful restoration of democracy and rule of law in Venezuela." And it asks U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "to help ensure free, fair, and credible presidential elections, and encourages subsequent peaceful, inclusive, and credible initiatives to address the prolonged crisis in the country."

Canada ex-attorney: Government tried to interfere in case

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's former attorney general testified Wednesday she experienced a consistent and sustained effort by many people in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to inappropriately interfere in the prosecution of a major Canadian engineering company, including receiving "veiled threats."

Ex-justice minister and ex-attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould called it "incredibly inappropriate" but said she didn't think it was illegal because she wasn't instructed to seek a settlement. She said 11 people tried to interfere in her prosecutorial discretion including Trudeau.

In a meeting with Trudeau, the prime minister raised the issue and asked her to "help out" with the case, she said.

Wilson-Raybould said she asked Trudeau if he was politically interfering with her role as attorney general and told him she would strongly advise against it.

"No, no, no. We just need to find a solution," she said Trudeau responded.

She said Trudeau told her that if Montreal-based SNC-Lavalin didn't get a deferred prosecution there would be jobs lost and the company would move its headquarters from Montreal to London and noted he was a lawmaker from Quebec. Wilson-Raybould said she was "barraged" and subjected to "hounding" by members of the government.

Trudeau disputed her view of events.

"I strongly maintain, as I have from the beginning, that I and my staff always acted appropriately and professionally, and therefore I completely disagree with the characterization of the former attorney general about these events," he said at a news conference.

Trudeau said the decision on whether to forgo prosecution and enter a plea agreement with the company was hers and hers alone.

He also welcomed the investigation of the ethics commissioner while he rejected calls by the leader of the opposition Conservative Party to resign, saying Canadians will have a choice later this year in parliamentary elections.

"My job as prime minister is to stand up for jobs. I have done that and will continue to do that. That is a fundamental role of a Canadian prime minister," Trudeau said.

Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer also said police should investigate and called Trudeau a disgraced prime minister. Jagmeet Singh, leader of the opposition NDP, said there should be a public inquiry but stopped short of calling for Trudeau to step down.

"He may need to resign because of this," he said. "What we heard today was explosive."

Nigerian leader appeals for unity as challenger rejects vote

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's president on Wednesday defended his sweeping win of a second term as free and fair and appealed to a "common love of country" as his top challenger vowed to go to court with allegations of fraud.

President Muhammadu Buhari was declared the clear winner by nearly 4 million votes as citizens of Africa's largest democracy gave him another chance to tackle gaping corruption, widespread insecurity and an economy limping back from a rare recession.

While many frustrated Nigerians had said they wanted to give someone new a try, Buhari , a former military dictator, profited from his upright reputation in an oil-rich nation weary of politicians enriching themselves instead of the people.

Top opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar, a billionaire former vice president who made campaign promises to "make Nigeria work again," quickly rejected the result of what he called a "sham election" and said next steps would be revealed shortly.

As many Nigerians awakened to the win along with the morning prayer, Buhari told colleagues he was "deeply humbled." He regretted the loss of dozens of lives in "mindless" election-related violence.

"I will like to make a special appeal to my supporters not to gloat or humiliate the opposition," he said. At a later event certifying his victory, he added to applause: "Election is not war and should never be seen as a do-or-die affair."

Challenger Abubakar said he would have conceded "within seconds" if the vote had been free and fair. Instead he alleged "manifest and premeditated malpractices" in many of Nigeria's 36 states.

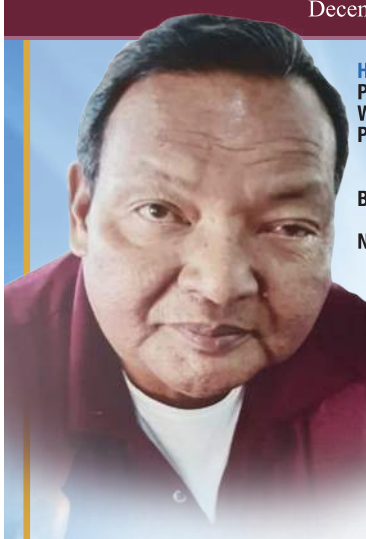
He asserted that voting was suppressed in his strongholds in the oil-rich south and that states threatened by an extremist insurgency generated unusually high turnouts.

One domestic election observer, the Civic Media Lab, noted that "contrary to normal reasoning" the state most affected by extremist attacks, Borno, saw a 13 percent increase in turnout. Some residents said, however, they were determined to vote despite the threat.

YIAGA Africa, which deployed more than 3,900 observers, said its parallel vote-counting project found official results largely tracked with its own but called on the electoral commission to look into "inconsistent" turnout figures.

Juan Quichocho Inos

Also known as "Kuch"
December 27, 1956 – February 14, 2019



He will now join his:
Parents: †Emilio Atalig and †Agustina Quichocho Inos
Wife: †Magdalena M. Inos
Parents In-law: †Ana Borja Roberto
†Tomas Castro
†Romano M. and †Asuncion H. Maratita
Brothers: †Gregorio Quichocho Inos
†Patricio Quichocho Inos
Nieces/Nephews: †Ruth Margaret Inos Pangelinan
†Emery Joseph Inos Pangelinan
†Agustina Charfauros Manglona

Brother and Sister In-Law:
†Thomas M. Manglona
†Pedro DLC. Pangelinan
†Jose B. Babauta
†Raymundo and Guadalup Manglona
†Beato Manglona
†Angelica M. and Miseal H. Ogo
†Clara M. Valdez
†Richard H. Maratita
†Candido H. Maratita
†Leon Masga

He will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Rosalia Julita Roberto Inos
Children: Juan Q. Inos II
Christine Annette and Rodney Mendiola (Maggie Ann and Zachary, Alfra Mae, Victorino III, Sierra)
Lelanie Inos and Jarrod T. Manglona (Fidel Anton, Oryn Jordan)
Candilyn N. Inos
Rochelle Ann Roberto (Haani Rai)
Juan Q. Inos III, and Angela M. DLGuerrero (Edward Jr., Angelina)
Reared Children: Thomas M. Manglona, Jr.
Nobert Jake I. Pangelinan
Francis Dwayne I. Manglona
Ray Ervin I. Manglona
God Children: Clarence Manglona
Glenda C. Santos
Frank S. Calvo II
Joel O. Hocog
Ashley O. Hocog
Sisters/Brothers In-law: Laura Maria Inos/ †Thomas M. Manglona, Children & Grandchildren
Judith Inos/ †Pedro DLC. Pangelinan, Children & Grandchildren
Parents In-laws: Felipe and Ketsuda Roberto

Brothers and Sisters In-law:
Engracia R. Babauta & Children
Juan B. Roberto and Flora T. Castro & Children
Marcelino B. and Julita B. Roberto & Children
Jose B. and Maria Linda S. Roberto & Children
Dolores R. and James McAllister & Children
Francisco B. and Kuuipo Roberto & Children
Pedro B. and Perdita Roberto & Children
Mamoltiwa (Moi) R. and Suriwong & Daughter
Preeyanuch (Mikki) Kongphim Roberto
Bonabe H. and Imee Maratita & Children
Carmen M. and Akilino Suzuki & Children
Delfina M. and Edward Barcinas & Children
Carmen C. Maratita & Children

He will also be missed by numerous aunts & uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, family and friends.
His arrival and funeral services will be announced at a later date.

Thank you,
The Family

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man who bought $540 of Girl Scouts cookies is arrested

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina man who bought more than 120 boxes of Girl Scouts cookies to help the scouts escape the cold has been arrested on drug charges. News outlets report the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency says 46-year-old Detric Lee McGowan was arrested Tuesday on charges including conspiracy to distribute fentanyl and cocaine. The agency says McGowan is the same man who appeared in a photo that garnered thousands of views and shares online. Mother Kayla Dillard had shared the photo on Facebook, saying the man paid $540 in cash for all the girls' cookies so they could escape the cold outside a store near Greenville, South Carolina. She said she didn't get the man's name. An indictment issued last week says McGowan, also known as "Fat," is one of several suspects in an ongoing drug investigation. It says he and 10 other people conspired to import drugs from Mexico in late 2018. The U.S. Attorney's Office says authorities are still searching for one of the suspects. The vice president of recruitment and marketing for Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands, Karen Kelly, says the organization will cooperate with authorities.

2 arrested in buffet brawl over crab legs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Alabama police say a dispute over crab legs at a dinner buffet ended in a brawl that left two people facing misdemeanor charges. Huntsville police officer Gerald Johnson says he was eating at the Meteor Buffet restaurant when a fight broke out. Johnson tells WHNT-TV that diners were using service tongs like fencing swords and plates were shattering, and a woman was beating a man. Johnson says diners had been waiting in line for crab legs for more than 10 minutes, and they lost their tempers once the food came out. The station reports Chequita Jenkins is charged with assaulting John Chapman, who suffered a cut on his head. Chapman is charged with disorderly conduct. Court records aren't available to show whether either person has a lawyer.

Giant wooden troll is returning to Colorado ski town

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. (AP)—A huge wooden troll will be reincarnated in a Colorado ski town, although it's unclear what it will look like or where it will sit. The Summit Daily reported Friday that Breckenridge officials have a deal with Danish artist Thomas Dambo to rebuild his troll this spring. It was erected beside a trail last summer for a festival, but it was so popular that nearby homeowners complained about all the foot traffic. It was taken down in November. The troll, named Isak Heartstone, was 15 feet (4.5 meters) high. Parts were discarded or recycled when it was removed, but some pieces were saved and will be used in the new version. Rebuilding is expected to take about a week sometime in May. More discussions are planned to choose a location.

Turtle disaster? 100-lb tortoise missing in New Mexico

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico woman is on a desperate hunt for her disappearing pet that can't run fast and can't be missed—a 100-lb tortoise. KOB-TV reports Dusty the Turtle went missing earlier this month in Roswell, New Mexico after strong winds knocked open a gate that housed him. Shana Emmert, who was pet sitting Dusty for her niece, says she believes the turtle strolled away from the backyard and into the desert during the wind storm. According to Emmert's neighbors, the 100-pound (45-kilogram) Dusty was last spotted near Berrendo Creek in Roswell and hasn't been seen since. The family is offering a $500 reward for the turtle's safe return.

Police: Stolen rare coins ended up in change machines

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Florida man stole collectible coins worth tens of thousands of dollars, then ran them through grocery store change machines that returned just a fraction of their value. The Palm Beach Post report s 20-year-old Shane Anthony Mele of Riviera Beach told investigators he stole the commemorative presidential dollar coins and other items from a North Palm Beach office in December. The coins were worth $33,000. A Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office arrest report says Mele sold some coins for a few thousand dollars, and he ran many through change machines that only produced their face value. Mele was charged Feb. 1 with grand theft along with unrelated drug charges. He was released Feb. 4 after posting bond. Jail records didn't show whether he had an attorney.

Dog shoots man: German court rules owner not fit for license

BERLIN (AP)—A German court has ruled that a dog owner isn't fit to carry a firearms license after his dog shot him with a rifle. The Munich administrative court on Tuesday dismissed the man's appeal against an earlier decision by Bavarian authorities to withdraw his license to own a rifle, as well as his hunting permit. The decision followed a 2016 incident in which the man, a passionate hunter, was shot in the arm after his dog managed to release the trigger on a loaded rifle that was lying in his car. The court ruled the hunter couldn't be relied upon "because it must be assumed that he will handle firearms and ammunition carelessly in future as well." The man, whose name wasn't released, can appeal the verdict.

Burglar crashes car into Oklahoma adult novelty store

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Police in Tulsa, Oklahoma, are searching for a man who crashed his car into the glass doors of an adult novelty shop, then ran inside and stole lingerie and sex toys. Police say the heist at Hustler Hollywood happened at about 3 a.m. Monday, when the store was closed. It was captured on video. Employees discovered the damage later Monday morning when they came to work. Police Officer Jeanne Pierce tells Tulsa TV station KOTV that authorities believe the man knew the store's layout because he ran directly to one section to steal the items, which were valued at about $300 to $400. Pierce says the greater cost is likely the damage to the glass doors. Authorities have not yet identified the man. No arrests have been made.

Beer from 1886 shipwreck may yield new brew

COBLESKILL, N.Y. (AP)—Ahoy, beer lovers: A bottle from a 133-year-old shipwreck may yield yeast for a new brew in upstate New York.

Biotechnology students at the State University of New York at Cobleskill uncorked a bottle from the shipwrecked SS Oregon on Thursday. Serious Brewing Company of Howes Cave plans to develop a new brew if the students successfully extract yeast.

Bill Felter, of Serious Brewing, acquired the beer from a customer who owns an assortment of artifacts recovered from the Oregon.

Science & Technology

China's Huawei unveils 5G phone with folding screen

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—China's Huawei unveiled a new folding-screen phone on Sunday, joining the latest trend for bendable devices as it challenges the global smartphone market's dominant players, Apple and Samsung.

AP

Huawei CEO Richard Yu displays the new Huawei Mate X foldable 5G smartphone at the Mobile World Congress, in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Huawei revealed its Mate X phone on the eve of MWC Barcelona, a four-day showcase of mobile devices, as the company battles U.S. allegations it is a cybersecurity risk.

The device can be used on superfast next-generation mobile networks that are due to come online in the coming years.

Device makers are looking to folding screens as the industry's next big thing to help them break out of an innovation malaise, although most analysts think the market is limited, at least in the early days.

The Mate X is the answer to a question Huawei faced as it sought to satisfy smartphone users' demands for bigger screens and longer battery life, said Richard Yu, CEO of its consumer business group.

"How can we bring the more big innovation to this smartphone industry?" Yu said at a glitzy media launch.

The Mate X will sell for 2,299 euros ($2,600) when it goes on sale by midyear. That's even more than Samsung's recently revealed Galaxy Fold, priced at nearly $2,000.

The Mate X's screen wraps around the outside so users can still view it when it's closed, unlike the Galaxy Fold, which has a screen that folds shut. Unfolded, the Mate X's screen is 8 inches diagonally, making it the size of a small tablet.

Yu said Huawei engineers spent three years working on the device's hinge, which doesn't leave a gap when shut.

"No matter how innovative and technology-advanced the new device is, it will take a lot more time for a critical mass of consumers to experience the benefits of foldable phones and 5G technology," Forrester analyst Thomas Husson said. Huawei still "has to find its own brand voice to differentiate from Samsung and Apple and stop acting as a technology challenger."

Huawei Technologies is trying to raise its profile in the fiercely competitive smartphone market. Almost everyone with a smartphone has heard of Apple and Samsung, the top device makers, and Google, the power behind Android's pervasive software.

Huawei, a Chinese company with a name many people in the West don't know how to pronounce (it's "HWA-way"), wants to join the market's upper echelon.

Billionaire list shows $1T hit from '18 market meltdown

BANGKOK (AP) — The stock market meltdowns in 2018 obliterated $1 trillion of the fortunes of the world's richest individuals, according to a list by wealth compiler Hurun Report.

The report, China's version of the Forbes rich list, showed Chinese billionaires still outnumbered those from any other country as of Jan. 31, at 658. Several newly minted ones amassed wealth through big share offerings, while 212 Chinese tycoons lost their dollar billionaire status.

The U.S. had 584 billionaires, followed by Germany with 117.

The biggest gains in wealth last year came in the areas of technology, media and telecoms, followed by real estate and other investments, manufacturing and retailing.

The wealthiest Chinese was e-commerce giant Alibaba's founder Jack Ma, the world's 22nd most wealthy person, with $39 billion. But Pony Ma Huateng of Internet giant Tencent Holdings, with $38 billion and Xu Jiayin of property developer Evergrande, with $37 billion, were close behind.

Though Chinese and other Asians are steadily gaining in wealth, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos topped the global chart for the second year running, with wealth estimated by the Hurun Global rich list at $147 billion. Bill Gates ranked second with $96 billion and Warren Buffett was third with $88 billion.

Gates' fortune rose $6 billion in 2018, said Hurun Report CEO Rupert Hoogewerf, despite his enthusiasm for philanthropy.

President Donald Trump's wealth fell by $500 million last year, the report said, to $3 billion, or 793rd.

The only Asian among the top 10 richest in the world was Mukesh Ambani of Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries, ranked 8th with wealth estimated at $54 billion.

Overall, the report said there are 2,470 billionaires in the world by Hurun's reckoning, down 224 from last year. Their total overall wealth fell by $950 billion from the year before to $9.6 trillion thanks to stock market gyrations and a strong U.S. dollar, it said.

Hurun's CEO Rupert Hoogewerf said he believes the world's billionaires may number over 6,000 people, since many seek to hide the extent of their wealth, especially in the Middle East.

The newly minted Chinese billionaires included Colin Huang Zheng of e-commerce platform Pinduoduo and Chinese Hotpot King Zhang Yong and his wife Shu Ping. Others were Zhang Yiming of ByteDance, an Internet technology "unicorn" valued at $75 billion, and Zhan Ketuan of bitcoin miner Bitmain.

Hurun issued the list jointly with Chinese luxury real estate developer Loong Palace, which markets villas and other properties to the wealthy.

Life & Style

Michael Jackson's brothers say accusers' film neglects facts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The family of Michael Jackson had a feeling the years-old child molestation allegations against the pop superstar would resurface at some point. So they say they weren't entirely surprised to learn that a forthcoming HBO documentary would feature two of his accusers.

"I thought, 'Oh here we go again,'" Jackson's oldest brother Jackie Jackson said Tuesday of the moment he learned of "Leaving Neverland" while on tour in Australia. "That's the first thing we said," Jackie Jackson said during an interview with The Associated Press seated next to his brothers Tito, Marlon and his nephew, Taj.

The documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival to a standing ovation , will starting Sunday air the abuse allegations of two men , Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who had previously denied Jackson molested them and supported him to authorities and in Robson's case, very publicly.

"It was going to be the 10-year anniversary," Taj Jackson said, referring to his uncle's June 2009 death. "I remember a year ago I was like, 'This is too appetizing for the media. They're going to do something. This is the time when everyone comes out of the woodwork, the same cast, the same characters that have been discredited throughout the years. They have a platform now to talk about Michael Jackson."

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 photo, Marlon Jackson, second from left, Jackie Jackson, second from right, and Tito Jackson, far right, brothers of the late singer Michael Jackson, and Tito's son Taj, far left, pose together for a portrait outside the Four Seasons Hotel, in Los Angeles. Jackson's brothers gave the first family interviews Tuesday on "Leaving Neverland," which features two Michael Jackson accusers and is set to air on HBO starting Sunday, March 3.

It was the latest and most public pushback from the family and Jackson estate, which have repeatedly denounced the documentary in recent weeks through written statements, a lawsuit , and letters to HBO and Britain's Channel 4, which plan to air the film.

HBO announced Wednesday that it will air a special on Monday night in which Oprah Winfrey also interviews Robson and Safechuck .

Their central criticism has been the film's failure to talk to family members or other defenders of Jackson, whom they insist never molested a child.

The brothers said they would have answered the allegations had the filmmakers asked them.

"Oh, we definitely would have come and talked to them about the situation ... to protect our brother," Tito Jackson said. "He's not here no more. He's passed, and, we're his brothers, we're supposed to do this."

Marlon Jackson added, "I look at it as yes, you're protecting your brother, but you're telling the truth, and we want people to understand the truth. And I do not understand how a filmmaker can make a documentary and not want to speak to myself or some of the other families that were at Neverland."

The documentary's director Dan Reed has repeatedly defended his film, which uses only the voices of Robson, Safechuck and their families.

"It's the story of these two families and not of all the other people who were or weren't abused by Michael Jackson," Reed told the AP the day after the film's premiere. "People who spent time with him can go, 'he couldn't possibly be a pedophile.' How do they know? It's absurd."

Winfrey to interview Jackson accusers in post-film special

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An Oprah Winfrey interview with two men who say Michael Jackson sexually abused them as boys will air immediately after a documentary on the men.

HBO and the Oprah Winfrey Network announced Wednesday that the special, "Oprah Winfrey Presents: After Neverland," will air simultaneously on both channels Monday at 10 p.m. Eastern and Pacific. That's just after the conclusion of the two-night airing of "Leaving Neverland."

The networks say the pre-taped interview by Winfrey will be with Wade Robson and James Safechuck, and the film's director, Dan Reed in front of an audience of people affected by sexual abuse.

The family and estate of Jackson , who died in 2009, have denounced the documentary and HBO's decision to air it, saying it spreads falsehoods about a man not alive to defend himself.

Arbitrator orders Fox to pay $179M in 'Bones' profit dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An arbitrator has ordered 21st Century Fox to pay $179 million in a dispute over profits with the stars of the long-running TV show "Bones," saying Fox executives engaged in "intentional fraud and malice."

The decision was reached earlier this month and revealed in a court petition from the plaintiffs Wednesday demanding that Fox pay, a decision Fox said it would contest.

Arbitrator Peter Licthman, a retired Los Angeles Superior Court judge, rebuked top Fox executives by name for self-dealing and deceit and his decision includes $128 million in punitive damages, calling the sum "reasonable and necessary to punish Fox for its reprehensible conduct and deter it from future wrongful conduct."

The overall figure is among the largest ever for a dispute over a television show and comes in a case that shines a light on finances within Hollywood conglomerates.

Lichtman said that Fox executives "engaged in a pattern and practice of fraudulent self-dealing by which it enriched itself" at the expense of the "Bones" producers and stars, who were owed a cut of profits.

David Boreanaz and Emily Deschanel, the stars of "Bones" in its run from 2005 through 2017, sued 21st Century Fox in 2015, saying it denied them profits by licensing the show to Fox's TV division and to Hulu for below-market rates. They were joined by executive producer Barry Josephson and Kathy Reichs, who authored the novels "Bones" is based on. The case went to private arbitration in 2016.

"We are so proud of the hard work we did on Bones for 12 seasons and only ever wanted Fox to live up to its promises and contractual obligations," Deschanel said in a statement.

Boreanaz added in his own statement that "it's clear that what we were saying all along was true: we were owed additional compensation for our work."

Fox denounced the decision and vowed to fight it.

"The ruling by this private arbitrator is categorically wrong on the merits and exceeded his arbitration powers," the company said in a statement. "Fox will not allow this flagrant injustice, riddled with errors and gratuitous character attacks, to stand and will vigorously challenge the ruling in a court of law."

Boss in love with secretary tries to chart the road ahead

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My secretary has worked for me for six years, and I have fallen in love with her. Neither of us is married. There's a couple of problems, however.

The first is, she's half my age. The second, she's a great secretary, and I would never want to do anything to upset her. I have never said anything about how I feel, but I am fairly certain she knows.

I have never done anything as far as making advances toward her or making any type of inappropriate comments. However, I do know I am in love, and I'm finding it harder to concentrate and wonder what to do, which is why I am writing to you. Should I just leave it alone?

DAZED AND CONFUSED

DEAR DAZED: Harassment policies in the business world have become more stringent. Conversations that could make a subordinate uncomfortable could put your own employment at risk if you are rebuffed. Because I don't know the policies in the company you work for, I'm recommending you err on the side of caution and leave it alone.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I are getting married this summer. We are both atheists here in the Bible Belt and come from religious families who will be invited to our small backyard wedding. Our families don't know that we are atheist. We won't be having any prayers or religious readings in our ceremony.

We are concerned about the reception. There is sure to be someone who expects a prayer over the meal and, if there isn't one, will speak up and do it.

I would like to address this issue ahead of time so our wishes are respected. I thought of perhaps including a little note in the invitations asking that any prayers be offered silently. Would that be rude? Do you have another suggestion to help us figure out the best way to handle this before our big day?

RELIGIONLESS GATHERING

DEAR RELIGIONLESS: Would it be rude? Yes. Technically, the only enclosure with your invitation should be the RSVP card. Feeling as strongly as your relatives do about religion, your families could feel confused or offended. Because you know someone is likely to want to bless the food, be polite, grin and bear it, and while it's being offered, focus your thoughts on your honeymoon.

DEAR ABBY: I am considering putting aside some money for my granddaughter's college education while I am able to do so. Do I need to see a lawyer for this? I just want a simple solution and need to know the best way to do it. She is 12 and wants to go to college someday. Is setting up a private bank account just for her a good idea? I really need some help in doing it the right way.

SUPPORTIVE GRANDMA IN ARIZONA

DEAR GRANDMA: This is a question you should direct to your financial adviser or the manager of your bank. Setting up an education savings account is an excellent idea, and you are a generous and loving grandparent to want to do it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

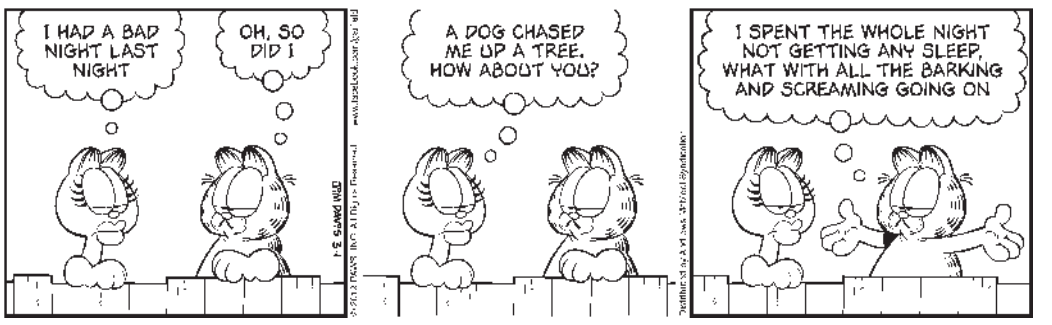
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, I DID IT! I ATE ENOUGH BOXES OF CEREAL TO GET ALL THE PROOF OF PURCHASE SEALS I NEED!
NOW I CAN ORDER MY BEANIE! OH, BOY! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET IT! I'LL BE SO COOL!
NOT FOR OVER A MONTH. IT SAYS TO ALLOW SIX WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.
SIX WEEKS ?!?
I'LL BE OLD THEN!
AND I'M SURE YOUR BEANIE WILL BE THE TALK OF THE REST HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I HAD A BAD NIGHT LAST NIGHT
OH, SO DID I
A DOG CHASED ME UP A TREE. HOW ABOUT YOU?
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT NOT GETTING ANY SLEEP. WHAT WITH ALL THE BARKING AND SCREAMING GOING ON

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR BOOK IDEA DREAM?
OH... OH, YES...
THERE'S... A PANDA. A MISUNDERSTOOD PANDA.
ANYTHING ELSE?
UM...
THE REST OF THIS IS PRETTY STUPID, EVEN IN MY HYPNOTIZED STATE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

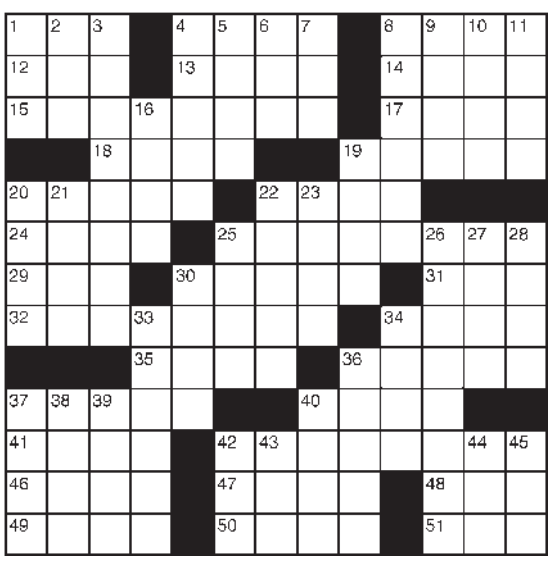
ACROSS
1 Steal from
4 Highlander
8 Streamlet
12 Historic period
13 String
14 Tom Joad, for one
15 Bridgetown's island
17 "It's — real!"
18 Intends
19 Tropical fruit
20 Jazz genre
22 Piece of work
24 Priests' garments
25 "Excellent work!"
29 Espionage org.
30 Spectrum creator
31 Ms. Thurman
32 Wavering
34 Twain hero
35 Sharp tooth
36 Clear-headed
37 Cream-filled pastries
40 Arrive
41 Jai —
42 Chocolatey frozen treat
46 Give up
47 Carry on
48 Citrus drink
49 Crystal gazer
50 Eye part
51 U.K. fliers

DOWN
1 Civil War soldier
2 Man-mouse link
3 Whom Pilate pardoned
4 Rascal
5 Atlantic catches
6 Granada gold
7 QB stats
8 Hearty
9 Furniture brand
10 Actor Schreiber
11 Sultry Home
16 Life stories
19 Site of Apra Harbor
20 "Coffee Cantata" composer
21 Writer Wiesel
22 Rubber gasket
23 Nuisance
25 Mom's mom
26 Place to get a fruit smoothie
27 Hotel chain
28 Combo
30 School orgs.
33 Not as certain
34 Seethe
36 Theater boxes
37 Campaign-funding gps.
38 Fonda's beekeeper role
39 Lose color
40 406, in Roman numerals
42 Calendar abbr.
43 Eg. and Syr., once
44 Oklahoma city
45 Ump

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	O	B	E	■	H	I	T	■	P	C	S	T
A	L	A	S	■	A	D	O	■	E	N	Y	A
N	A	R	C	■	V	A	N	■	A	E	H	O
D	Y	N	A	M	C	■	O	A	R	S	■	■
■	■	■	P	■	O	K	E	T	L	I	N	E
P	A	W	C	D	■	I	N	C	■	D	I	Y
A	C	H	E	■	J	N	D	■	F	E	T	E
S	A	O	■	M	P	G	■	I	A	D	F	S
I	I	C	K	E	I	S	I	U	B	■	■	■
■	■	A	N	N	A	■	R	E	E	F	E	R
F	A	R	O	■	K	A	Y	■	R	E	M	O
A	B	E	T	■	E	F	S	■	G	A	I	_
D	A	S	S	■	S	A	T	■	C	R	T	C

Yesterday's answer 3-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bieber, 25; Kesha, 32; Lupita Nyong'o, 36; Ron Howard, 65.

Happy Birthday: Step things up a bit this year, and you won't be disappointed. You'll get the help you need and the resources necessary to put your plans into motion. High energy coupled with solid ideas will determine how far you get. Know when to pare down financially in order to stay on budget. Managing money and relationships responsibly will make a difference. Your numbers are 5, 8, 14, 27, 35, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't rely on others to do a job for you. Take charge, get things done to your specifications and keep the ball rolling. Not everyone will like what you do, but it will have more to do with jealousy or feeling threatened. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You've got everything going for you, so don't stop now. Forge into the future with optimism, confidence and a goal in mind. Your efforts will make a lasting impression on someone who wants to get to know you better. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be careful what you share with others. Someone will misinterpret your words or back you into a corner, putting you in a vulnerable position. If you want to make a change, do so secretively and avoid interference. A partnership will lack honesty. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A call for help will be well-received. Don't hesitate to invite others to take part in your plans. You'll accomplish your goals and still get credit where credit is due. Make plans with someone you love, and celebrate what you've accomplished. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Assess situations carefully. Emotions will control you if someone tries to take over. Don't trust a sales pitch regarding the cost of something. Get a quote in writing before you decide to go ahead with your plans. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participation is the name of the game if you want to reach your destination. Map out your plans, and go over every detail personally. You'll get good results. A trade show or reunion you attend will encourage you to make personal changes. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Monitor unstable domestic situations. Listen, observe and look for solutions without drawing attention to the way you feel or what you plan to do. Get your thoughts in place and your plans in order before taking action. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of pace or more variety in your life will spark your imagination and creative ability. Consider your options and how best to turn your dreams into a reality. Get the ball rolling. Make change happen. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take pride in what you do, or someone will complain or make you look bad. Personal improvements and focusing on inner growth will help you get a better idea of what you really want to do next. Don't rely on others. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make choices based on what and who you know. A change at home may not suit everyone, but with a friendly nudge, you will persuade others to pitch in and help you achieve your goals. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take a moment to consider what others want and how best to fit your needs and the needs of those you love into your plans. A change will lead to opportunity, new beginnings and less stress. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get involved in a group effort to make interesting connections that can help you achieve your personal goals. Taking better care of your health and physical well-being will be necessary if you want to avoid losing valuable time. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, innovative and energetic. You are impulsive and outgoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8					
2				1	9			6
6	3				7			
		7					8	
5		4				9		1
	9					6		
			5				7	2
1			2	4				8
				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	2	7	4	1	5	8	3	6
5	8	6	9	3	7	1	2	4
4	1	3	2	8	6	9	5	7
1	7	8	6	5	9	2	4	3
6	3	9	1	4	2	5	7	8
2	5	4	3	7	8	6	1	9
7	4	2	8	9	1	3	6	5
3	9	1	5	6	4	7	8	2
8	6	5	7	2	3	4	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S LUSCIOUS — Solution: 8 letters

S	S	C	H	A	R	M	H	Y	M	A	E	R	D	D
U	U	H	S	E	S	S	U	O	M	U	(H)	(C)	(I)	(R)
O	O	O	E	T	I	S	I	U	Q	X	E	V	P	D
I	E	C	I	V	U	S	P	I	L	Y	I	S	E	N
C	G	O	A	T	W	N	N	L	R	N	L	U	P	A
I	R	L	L	E	P	U	N	O	E	U	H	A	I	R
L	O	A	E	T	I	M	V	I	F	N	S	V	C	G
E	G	T	M	U	E	A	U	I	N	T	D	E	E	N
D	R	E	A	C	S	E	T	R	R	G	L	I	R	I
A	A	R	R	F	A	U	S	Y	C	I	U	J	D	C
R	T	I	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	S	S	I	O	I
L	I	S	C	E	I	N	W	O	R	B	H	N	O	T
I	F	E	B	S	U	C	C	U	L	E	N	T	G	N
N	Y	D	U	L	C	E	T	Y	T	T	E	R	P	E
G	N	I	T	I	V	N	I	C	E	N	J	O	Y	G

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Qualification Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Biomedical Engineering or related science and medical field. Work experience in sales for a minimum of 3 years in medical field: strong interpersonal and communication skills; highly proficient in the use of Microsoft office applications; Independent and requires less supervision; must have a valid CNMI driver's license; aggressive and hardworking.

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net or fax to 670-235-5418.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: COOK

Job Description: Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment and work surfaces, or serving areas to ensure safe and sanitary food-handling practices; Ensure freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items, and rotating stock; Ensure food is stored and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of ovens, broilers, grills, and roasters; Season and cook food according to recipes or personal judgment and experience; Turn or stir foods to ensure even cooking; Observe and test foods to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling, or piercing them with utensils; Portion, arrange, and garnish food, and serve foods to waiters or patrons; Weigh, measure. And mix ingredients according to recipes or personal judgment, using various kitchen utensils and equipment; Bake, roast, broil and steam meats, fish, vegetables, and other foods; Wash, peel, cut, and seed fruits and vegetables to prepare them for consumption; Coordinate and supervise work of kitchen staff; Estimate expected food consumption, requisition or purchase of supplies, or procure food from storage; Substitute for or assist other cooks during emergencies or rush periods; Consult with supervisory staff to plan menus, taking into consideration factors such as costs and special events' needs; Carve and trim meats such as beef, veal, ham, pork, and lamb for hot or cold service, or for sandwiches; Keep records and accounts; Plan and price menu items.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate and with at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a cook. Knowledgeable in cooking and preparing Chinese cuisine.

Job Site: 1st Floor, Coco Building, Rte 319 DPL Derence Jack RD Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

THOMAS T. CHONG
Manager
American K&W Corporation
(Happiness Restaurant)
Office Address: 1st Floor, Coco Building, Rte 319 DPL Derence Jack RD Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 978, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
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Baseball appears headed to early labor negotiations

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball players and management appear headed to early labor negotiations that could lead to significant economic changes in the collective bargaining agreement and possibly a new deal past the current expiration of December 2021.

Management backed off its desire for a pitch clock this year in a proposal to the players' association on Tuesday, putting off most on-field changes to 2020 at the earliest. The union quickly made a counteroffer Wednesday, and the biggest alterations still being discussed for this year are a single trade deadline, most likely on July 31, and lowering the number of mound visits without a pitching change from six to five.

While players have proposed major initiatives that impact economics, such as expanding the designated hitter to the National League and adding provisions that make rebuilding rosters with young players less attractive, management has been focused on on-field issues thus far. Management told the union it would be willing to discuss larger economic issues as part of talks that could lead to a longer labor contract.

Details were disclosed to The Associated Press by people familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing. Many aspects of management's latest proposal were first reported by ESPN.

Among the items put off until 2020 at the earliest are several where an agreement could be reached soon: a three-batter minimum for pitchers; increasing active rosters from 25 to 26, including a maximum of 13 pitchers, and dropping them from 40 to 28, including a maximum 14 pitchers, from Sept. 1 through the end of the regular season; increasing the minimum regular injured list and option recall period for pitchers from 10 days to 15; and a new rule that position players could pitch only from the ninth inning on, or from the sixth inning on when their team trails by seven runs or more.

The sides remain in discussion over starting extra innings of the All-Star Game and of spring training games with a runner on second base and ending spring training games after 10 innings. They also are discussing experimenting with shorter between-inning breaks combined with televising the start of innings on split-screens alongside commercials.

A single trade deadline would replace the current rules, which have a July 31 deadline for trades without waivers and an Aug. 31 deadline to acquire players who would be eligible for that team's postseason rosters.

While unilaterally making the decision to experiment with a 20-second pitch clock during spring training this year, management has offered not to pursue a pitch clock in the regular season through 2021. Management has the right to implement a clock in games that count, but baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he is reluctant to take that step without players' agreement.

Baseball has had 12 collective bargaining agreements starting with the first in 1968 and has never held mid-agreement talks that led to an extension or new deal. The only mid-agreement extension was reached in the settlement of the 1981 midseason streak, in which management gave players credit for major league service during the 50-day walkout in exchange for extending the deal by one year through December 1984.

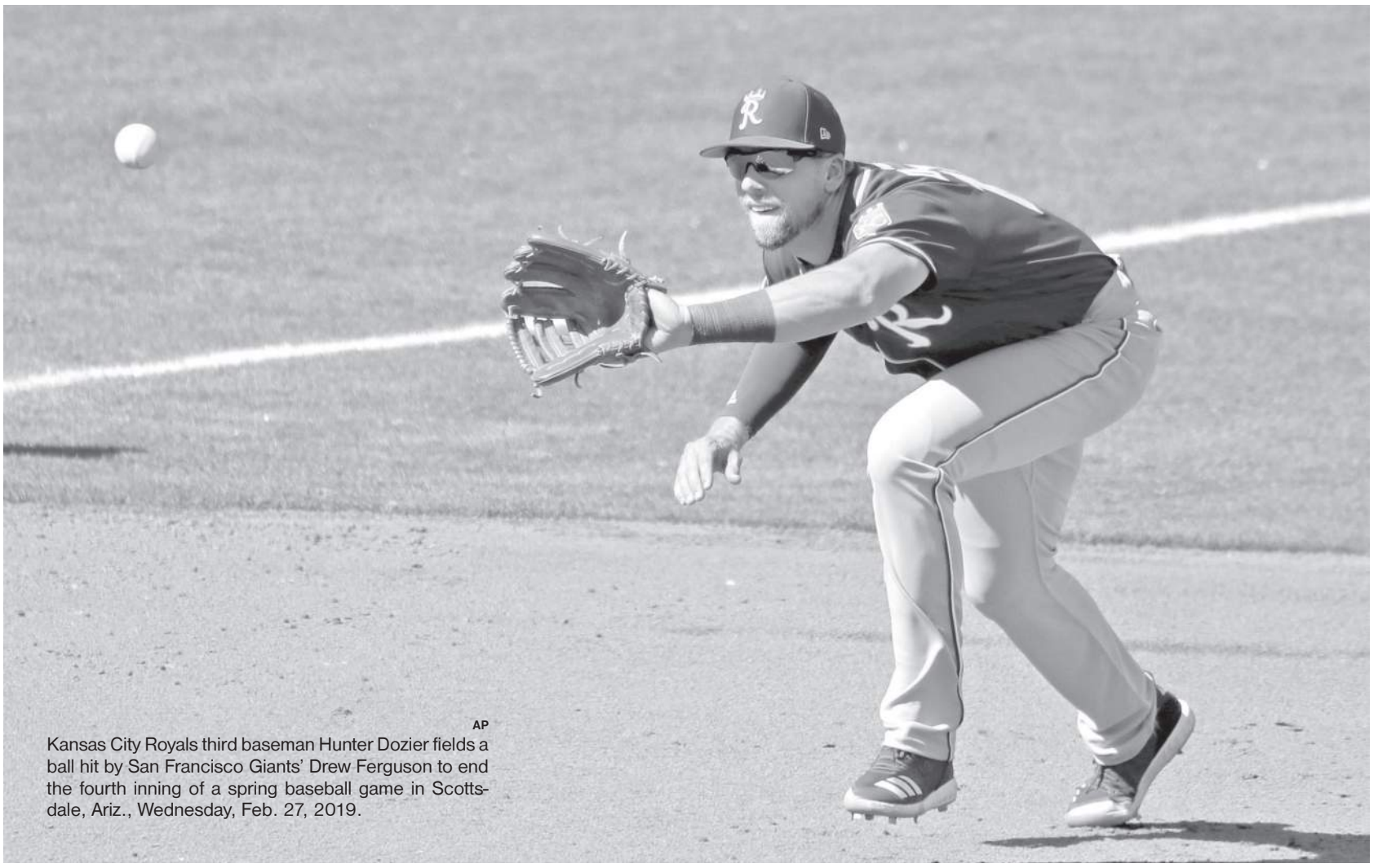
The NFL and NBA have reached new deals in mid-agreement, motivated by uncapped final years in the football contract and opt-out provisions in the basketball contract.

After experiencing eight work stoppages from 1972-95, baseball has enjoyed a quarter-century of labor peace. But players have become angry because of two straight slow free-agent markets that has seen many deals reached on the eve of spring training or with workouts already underway. St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright has talked about the possibility of a strike.

Union head Tony Clark and players have accused rebuilding teams of tanking, a charge management denies. Manfred maintains clubs have the right to rebuild with youth as they please.

The 2012-16 labor contract imposed limits on bonuses for amateurs residing in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, and the 2017-21 deal capped spending on international amateurs. In addition, the current deal raised the top luxury tax rate for repeat offenders from 50 percent to 95 percent, which has impacted behavior among the highest-spending teams.

Because of management's success under the current deal, some team owners may be reluctant for mid-agreement negotiations. However, overall attendance has dropped in three straight seasons, the average last year fell below 30,000 for the first time since 2003 and six ballparks set record lows for a season. MLB attributed the drop largely to bad weather last spring.



AP

Kansas City Royals third baseman Hunter Dozier fields a ball hit by San Francisco Giants' Drew Ferguson to end the fourth inning of a spring baseball game in Scottsdale, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019.

Report: Giants offering Harper 10-year contract

SAN FRANCISCO—The Giants brass met with Bryce Harper in Las Vegas for the second time in a matter of weeks.

For some time they have been connected to Harper, but the thinking has been that they are offering a short-term deal, not a long-term deal. Harper's choice, then, would be between big money in Philly, where the Phillies are reportedly offering him a contract in the offer of ten-years and $300 million, and something with a high average annual value but nowhere near as long and large a commitment in San Francisco or, perhaps, Los Angeles.

That could certainly change the calculus.

While some may think it's odd for the Giants to do this given that they (a) are aging; (b) are not expected to be competitive in the short term; and (c) have a lot of money committed to other players already, such considerations may not be as big a deal as they're made out to be.

For one thing, Harper is young and even if it took a couple of years for the Giants to reshuffle, Harper would still be in his prime when they finally got things in order. In some ways it's not terribly different than what the Padres are doing with Manny Machado, though the Giants and Padres would be expected to rebuild in very different ways.

For another thing, a big part of the Giants' financial strength comes from a very supportive hometown crowd, which has kept their park sold out or mostly sold out for some time. While attendance and revenue are not nearly as connected as they used to be, it's particularly important in San Francisco where fans have come to expect the team to go big, always. There are other things to do in that town, after all, and the notion of a teardown rebuild is far harder to imagine with the Giants than with other teams.

Finally, there's precedent. The first big act of the current Giants ownership group after taking over in 1992 was to sign Barry friggin' Bonds to a big deal. There was not some master rebuild plan involved. There was not a lot of consideration of where the 1992-93 Giants were on the success cycle. They went out and got the best available player in the game and decided that they'd be better and more interesting with him than without him. The same would apply here, even if 2019 Harper is no 1992 Barry Bonds.

Will they get him? No idea. But I like that they're trying. The worst case is they lose out and don't have to spend $300 million. Or maybe they win out, Harper doesn't quite live up to the deal and, in the meantime, fans are pretty happy to see a really good and exciting player in Giants colors.

Meanwhile, Marwin Gonzalez was Houston's do-everything utility player for the last few years.

Replacing him is probably going to be a team effort.

Gonzalez signed a $21 million, two-year deal with Minnesota on Monday, making official what the Astros seemed to know all offseason: they're going to need new depth around the diamond. Gonzalez played every position except pitcher and catcher during his seven seasons with Houston.

The player most likely to mimic Gonzalez is 2016 All-Star Aledmys Diaz, who was acquired from Toronto in November. Houston is also hoping first baseman Yuli Gurriel can bounce around the infield a bit more.

"I want to see Diaz play all four infield positions and potentially two outfield positions on the corner," manager AJ Hinch said. "We may not have enough time to do that as much as we want. As fun as it sounds, that's lot to ask out of one guy, but I would like to move him around a little bit."

Diaz has experience at most of those positions. The 28-year-old has primarily been a shortstop with the Cardinals and Blue Jays, but he's also comfortable at third base and has appeared at second base and in left field.

"I think it's a challenge to play different positions every day, but at the same time, I've played all over the infield in the past," he said. "So for me, I've never played first base at this level and only a little bit in the outfield."

Federer reaches Dubai quarters; Nishikori out

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Roger Federer maintained his perfect record against Fernando Verdasco to reach the Dubai Championships quarterfinals on Wednesday, while top-seeded Kei Nishikori was eliminated.

Federer converted his first match point when Verdasco sent a forehand wide, finishing off a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win that improved his record against the Spaniard to 7-0. Nishikori, though, lost 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 against Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

This was win No. 50 for Federer in Dubai, having won the tournament seven times.

"It's a big number," the 37-year-old Federer said when told it was his 50th win. "I'm not sure if I'm going to get to 100. Let's put it that way."

He's only three matches away from a 100th tournament title, though, and will next face Marton Fucsovics of Hungary, who beat Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany 6-4, 6-2.

Federer has only played Fucsovics once, at last year's Australian Open, but has trained with him in Zurich and said he's been impressed with the Hungarian's game.

"I know Marton quite well actually," Federer said. "He's improved. He likes the fast surfaces. He likes to play up in the court. He has the power when required. I think it's going to be definitely a match that's going to test me tomorrow."

The second-seeded Federer is now an even bigger favorite for the title with Nishikori out. It was Hurkacz's first win against top-10 ranked player and earned him a place in his first ATP tour quarterfinal.

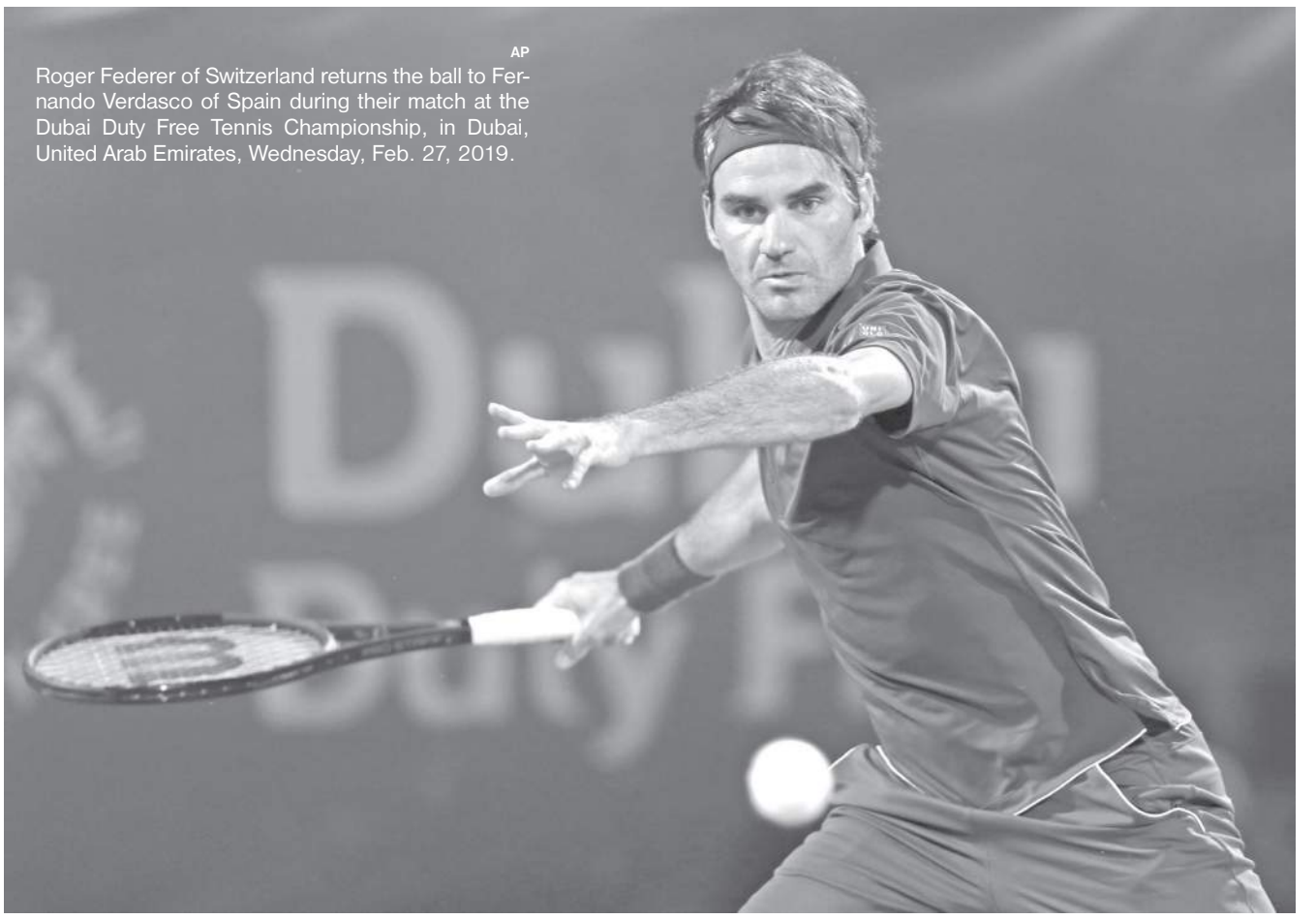
"It's a huge win for me," Hurkacz said. "It gives me huge confidence. I'm going to try to keep going forward."

Hurkacz converted six of his seven break points, including one when Nishikori was serving for the first set at 5-4. He also broke for a 3-1 lead in the final set with a backhand down the line and again in the last game when the Japanese player hit a forehand long.

"He played well today," Nishikori said. "I didn't serve well when I wanted to. It happens. That cost me some important points. I think he really played well in the important games."

Hurkacz will next play fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, who eased past Belarusian qualifier Egor Gerasimov 6-3, 6-1 in less than an hour. Tsitsipas beat Hurkacz last week in Marseille en route to his second career title.

Gael Monfils also advanced by knocking out Cypriot wild-card entry Marcos Baghdatis 6-3, 6-2 and will face Lithuanian qualifier Ricardas Berankis, who ousted Denis Kudla of the United States 6-4, 6-1.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Fernando Verdasco of Spain during their match at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019.

Eagles agree to let Foles seek starting job in free agency

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Nick Foles rejuvenated his career in Philadelphia. Now he wants to turn his success into an NFL starting job—and the Eagles intend to give him that chance.

General manager Howie Roseman told reporters Wednesday that the franchise will not use the franchise tag on Foles, making him a free agent.

"It's hard when you have someone who is incredibly valuable to your organization, the most important position in sports," Roseman said during the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis. "But at the same time, he deserves an opportunity to lead a team. It's a goal of his to lead another team and lead another locker room, and we feel at this point it's the right decision."

Roseman said the Eagles agreed to make the move after Foles expressed his desire during a recent meeting.

And with Carson Wentz, the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2016 the established starter in Philadelphia, Foles understood it meant he would have to find a new team.

Over the last two seasons, Foles became one of the most precious commodities in sports—a backup quarterback with championship-caliber talent.

When Wentz tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in December 2017, Foles stepped in, led the Eagles to their first NFL title since 1960 and was the Super Bowl MVP.

Last season, when Wentz suffered a back injury, Foles again stepped forward and led the Eagles back to the playoffs. Foles helped Philadelphia to a 16-15 wild-card victory at Chicago before losing 20-14 at New Orleans in the divisional round.

But in those two seasons he won four playoff games—more than he did in his previous five in the league combined—and turned himself into a hot commodity at the most prized position in the league.

"We've been so fortunate over the last couple of years to have two top-15 quarterbacks in Carson and Nick, and we spent a lot of time discussing this internally and with him," Roseman said. "We feel very comfortable about it. Again, hard decision because of someone who means a lot to us, professionally and personally, but at that end of the day as an organization, we felt it was the right thing to do."

When Foles signs elsewhere, Nate Sudfeld will move into the No. 2 spot.

The 30-year-old Foles comes with a solid resume.

He was Philadelphia's third-round pick in 2012, starting six games as a rookie and 18 more before signing with the Rams in 2015. After one season as the starter in St. Louis, he moved to Kansas City, where he rejoined former Eagles coach Andy Reid to serve as the backup to Alex Smith. In 2016, Foles returned to Philadelphia to mentor Wentz and wound up becoming a fan favorite and a Super Bowl champ.

And he hits free agency with a chance to cash in.

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Wade banks in trey to help Heat stun Warriors

MIAMI (AP)— Dwyane Wade jumped onto a courtside table and thumped himself on the chest three times. He took a victory lap, waving a towel. He got mobbed by teammates.

He's been part of games that meant more.

But bigger moments—there haven't been many, if any, than this one.

Wade's one-legged, off-the-glass, straightaway 3-point heave as time expired lifted the Miami Heat to a 126-125 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night, a game where the Heat wasted every bit of a 24-point lead and had to rally from four points down in the final minute.

"I've been in this position so many times and so many times you don't make the shot," Wade said. "And the one I make is a one-legged flick from my chest. It's crazy. Great to do it in front of fans."

Kevin Durant made one of two free throws with 14 seconds left, putting Golden State up by two. The Heat had no timeouts, no way to set up a play, and there was no way anyone could have drawn up what happened.

Wade brought the ball up, drove into the lane, stutter-stepped and lost the ball for a brief moment. He gathered it and shoveled it to Dion Waiters, who was double-teamed and couldn't get off a shot. Waiters tossed it back to Wade, who shot-faked Durant in the air and then had his first try blocked by Jordan Bell.

Wade caught the rebound with about a second left.

Off the glass, for the win.

From there, bedlam.

The fans erupted in cheers. Some of the Warriors watched the replay on the overhead screens with a look of disbelief, and after a moment Warriors star Stephen Curry came over to offer congratulations after presumably their last head-to-head meeting before Wade retires after this season.

"I told Steph, 'I needed this one on my way out. Y'all get enough,'" Wade said. "But it was cool. I think the one thing cool for me was I've got younger teammates that heard about some of the things you do but don't always get an opportunity to see it."

Wade scored 25 points to help Miami snap a six-game home losing streak.

AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots a 3-pointer over Golden State Warriors forward Jordan Bell (2) during an NBA basketball Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Miami. The Heat won, 126-125.

Lakers 125, Pelicans 119

In Los Angeles, LeBron James scored 33 points, Brandon Ingram added 23 and the Lakers weathered strong performances by Anthony Davis and Julius Randle for a victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Davis had 22 points and eight rebounds in the first three quarters after getting a warm pregame reception from Lakers fans who eagerly followed Los Angeles' fruitless pursuit of a trade for the superstar forward earlier this season.

Randle scored 35 points against his former team, but couldn't finish a comeback against James and the Lakers' new core during New Orleans' fifth loss in seven games.

The Lakers had a 12-point lead early in the fourth quarter before the Pelicans trimmed it to 118-117 on Darius Miller's 3-pointer with 1:38 to play. After Ingram hit a layup, Reggie Bullock forced a turnover by Jrue Holiday before James drilled a one-footed 3-pointer from the corner with 31 seconds left.

Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points and Rajon Rondo had 16 assists for the Lakers, who avenged a loss in New Orleans four days earlier with just their third win in nine games overall.

Davis sat out the fourth quarter again under his minutes restriction, but the Staples Center crowd gave a loud ovation during player introductions to the perennial All-Star who nearly ended up playing for the home team in this matchup—and still could someday soon.

Rockets 118, Hornets 113

In Charlotte, James Harden scored 30 points, Clint Capela had 23 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and Houston beat Charlotte for its third straight victory.

In his first game since his streak of 30-point games ended at 32, Harden struggled from the field, missing his first eight shots from 3-point range — even having one blocked by Nic Batum. Harden finished 10 of 29 from the field and 1 of 11 from 3-point range, but made two free throws with 14.6 seconds left to put it away.

Chris Paul heated up in the fourth quarter and finished with 17 points and 10 assists. Kemba Walker had 35 points for Charlotte, 27 in the first half. He was 3 of 12 from the floor in the second half.

Hawks 131, Timberwolves 123, OT

In Atlanta, Trae Young matched the career high he set earlier in the week with 36 points, John Collins had 33 and Atlanta beat Minnesota in overtime.

Collins scored 18 points in the fourth quarter as Atlanta, which trailed by 13 points late in the third period, rallied to force the extra period.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 37 points and 17 rebounds. Andrew Wiggins had 21 points.

DeAndre Bembry scored six of his 16 points in overtime for Atlanta.

Trail Blazers 97, Celtics 92

In Boston, Damian Lillard scored 21 of his 33 points in the second half and Portland handed Boston its fourth straight loss.

Maurice Harkless had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Jusef Nurkic scored 16 points, and CJ McCollum finished with 14 points for the Blazers. They have won a season-best five straight.

The struggling Celtics are winless since the All-Star break. Kyrie Irving scored 31 points to lead Boston.

Kyrie Irving scored 31 points for Boston. The Celtics are winless since the All-Star break.

Spurs 105, Pistons 93

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 17 points and 13 points, and the Spurs returned home after a 25-day absence to beat the Pistons and snap a three-game skid.

Detroit had won three straight and seven of eight but was facing a San Antonio team in desperate need of a homecoming.

The Spurs returned to the AT&T Center for the first time since Feb. 2 after going 1-7 on their rodeo road trip, the worst they have fared on their annual excursion.

Mavericks 110, Pacers 101

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 26 points and 10 rebounds in his final game as a teenager, fellow rookie Jalen Brunson scored a season-high 24 points and the Mavericks ended a five-game losing streak with a victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Doncic, the only teenager in NBA history with multiple triple-doubles, didn't have a shot at his fifth late. But the first-year sensation who turns 20 Thursday had two of his seven assists on a pair of key 3-pointers while getting one from Brunson on a deep 3 to help Dallas hang on.

Wizards 125, Nets 116

In New York, Bradley Beal scored 31 points, Trevor Ariza had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Washington beat Brooklyn.

Reserve Thomas Bryant added 18 points. Washington had lost four straight and nine out of 12.

D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points for the Nets. They had won two in a row.

Bulls 109, Grizzlies 107

In Memphis, Zach LaVine scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter to help Chicago beat Memphis for its fourth victory in five games.

Lauri Markkanen added with 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points. Avery Bradley led Memphis with 23 points and seven assists.

LeBron flips script on Lakers, stops being negative

A few days after playing the bad cop, Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James is going back to the good-cop routine. After calling out teammates following losses Saturday and Monday, James was a glowing ball of positivity Wednesday.

James was overwhelmingly supportive of the Lakers on Wednesday, constantly reiterating that he believes in the team, according to ESPN's Dave McMenamin.

"We like where we are," James said. "I like where we are today."

That's not the message James sent to teammates following losses to the New Orleans Pelicans and Memphis Grizzlies. After losing to the Pelicans on Saturday, James questioned his teammates' sense of urgency and commitment to winning.

Following Monday's loss to the Grizzlies, James doubled down on that sentiment, saying his teammates shouldn't allow "distractions to affect the way you play."

James didn't just ooze positivity with the things he said Wednesday, though. James made sure to show it on the court.

Given how much the Lakers have struggled this season, it's worth wondering how long James will be able to keep up the optimistic outlook. He sounds cheery right now, but that could change quickly if the Lakers continue to drop in the standings.

Meanwhile, with fellow playoff chasers the Los Angeles Clippers, Sacramento Kings and Minnesota Timberwolves all losing earlier in the evening, the Lakers' postseason prospects took a welcome turn for the better after the win over the Pelicans last Wednesday.

James, visibly frustrated and seemingly lethargic in the previous two games, was relaxed enough on this night to celebrate with a fan who won $100,000 by swishing a half-court shot between the third and fourth quarters.

Los Angeles ended the night in the 10th spot in the Western Conference, but has four of its next five games at home, plus a visit to the struggling Phoenix Suns.

140 register for Tagaman Triathlon

One-hundred-forty athletes from 11 countries have signed up for the 30th Tagaman Triathlon set for March 30.

Sixty-one athletes from Korea, 30 from The Marianas, 19 from Japan, 17 from Guam, and additional entries from Spain, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Hong Kong are slated to take the starting line. Registrants include back-to-back champion Manami Iijima of Guam and other past winners, including inaugural Tagaman runner-up and three-time champion Hideya Miyazuka of Japan.

"March is going to be a busy month for athletes in The Marianas with Saipan Marathon on March 9 and Tagaman Triathlon on March 30, not to mention other shorter races like the Triple J 5K Bubble Run," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As a sports tourism destination, one of the great attractions of The Marianas is that there is almost always some type of sporting or exercise event available for our visitors to participate in every week, whether they be world-class athletes or a family with young children. We thank all of this year's Tagaman sponsors for joining with the MVA and Triathlon Association of the CNMI in making this year's event possible. We invite all the community to post their sporting and exercise events on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymariansa.com so visitors can join in and have fun, too."

Registration is available online at www.saipantriathlon.com and the last day to sign up is March 28.

"We have prepared an Olympic distance triathlon on March 16 at Paupau Beach, the last series of races of IT&E Road to Tagaman to fine-tune the preparation of our local triathletes," said TRAC president Ricky Castro.

Joining title sponsor MVA as major sponsors are Kanoa Resort Saipan (official hotel of the 30th anniversary) IT&E, Neo System (as the official timer), KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, PDI, Triple J Ent., ELand, and Tri Tour of Korea. Additional sponsors are TanHoldings, DFS Saipan Ltd., Hyatt Regency Saipan, MARPAC, Joeten Enterprises, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, Saipan Ice & Water, Bridge Capital LLC, Fiesta Resort Saipan, Marianas Medical Center, Saipan Shipping, JET Holdings, Let's Go Tour, and Seiko Swim gear.

With its 2K swim, 60K bike, and 15K run races, Tagaman is named after the ancient indigenous Chamorro chief Taga, renowned for his legendary feats of strength. Tagaman welcomes athletes of all levels and ages. Drivers are urged to exercise caution on race day. The starting point and swim leg will be at Minachom Atdao pavilion in Susupe. Bikers will transition at Kilili Pavilion parking lot in Susupe, head south to Airport Roard, north to Banzai Cliff, and back south to Minatchom Atdao pavilion for the finish line.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: $1,000 for first place, $700 for second, and $500 for third. Medals will be awarded for the age group division, team and individual finishers. ***(PR)***

Korean group hosts golf tourney on April 13

The Korean Community of Saipan Golf Classic will be held on April 13 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The tournament has a double-peoria format and cash prizes, cars, and other perks await winners of the event organized by the Korean Community of Saipan to raise funds for its various projects on island. Last year, the association handed out 3,000 to 4,000 meals to residents affected by Super Typhoon Yutu, while it also brought locals to South Korea in the past for a cultural exchange program.

Meanwhile, the champion of the double-peoria contest will take home $500, while $500 will also be given to the Lowest Gross winner. The second and third placers in the double-peoria event will get $300 and $200, respectively, while organizers will award $100 each to the 13th, 23rd, 33rd, 43rd, 53rd, 63rd, and 73rd finishers.

Two brand new cars and $10,000 cash will be at stake as hole-in-one prizes, while lots of raffle prizes will be given away during the awards banquet at the Saipan World Resort.

Registration is only $100, which covers the greens fee and admission to the banquet, and is open to all interested golfers. Check-in time is at 11:30am, while shotgun start is at 12:30pm. The banquet/awards ceremony will start at 6:30pm and will feature performances from both local and Korean entertainers.

To sign up or for more information, contact Korean Community of Saipan president Neung Sik Chang at 234-0465 or tournament directors Lee Young Woo at 483-7889 and Kim Yong Gon at 287-3839. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

From left, Kim Yong Gon, Neung Sik Chang, and Lee Young Woo visit the Saipan Tribune office to announce to the public that they will be holding the Korean Community of Saipan Golf Classic on April 13.

LADY

From Page 32

advantage at the break.

Mt. Carmel captain Louisa Han scored all of her team's baskets in the first quarter to lift the Knights to a 6-2 lead. Then in the second canto, the Bucalig sisters—Fiona and Franchesca—took matters into their own hands and teamed up for 10. Franchesca Bucalig netted 6 and Fiona added 4 for the Knights' 9-point advantage at the half.

When the game resumed, Franchesca, Kalyn Diaz, Vicky Ancheta each scored 2 points in the third period to bring the Lady Knights' lead to 12.

The Lady Eagles fell further behind, as they mustered a meager 3 points in the penultimate frame, while Phan, Torres, and Tina Choi were not able to overhaul the deficit in the final canto.

With the victory, the Lady Knights now have a 2-0 record and are in solo first place in the team standings, while the Lady Eagles took a step back with their 1-1 mark.

Meanwhile, the Knights had a sweep yesterday, as MCS 1 outclassed GCA in the closely contested boys division match, 39-36.

Michael Johnson and Matthew Ong finished with 10 and 9 points, respectively, while Angelo Factor and Chioni Dela Cruz pumped in 8 markers apiece for MCS 1. Ryan Choi and Seung Jun Baek finished in double figures on a losing effort for GCA, with the former netting 13 markers and the latter adding 10 points.

The Knights improved to a 4-2 card, while GCA stumbled to a 2-4 record. MCS 1 also kept the third spot in the standing behind Saipan Southern High School (4-0) and Kagman High School (4-1).

The Ayuyus bagged their fourth win after doubling up Agape Christian School 2, 48-24, in the other boys division match at the former's court in Kagman.

Presley Augustino and Edward Reyes led Kagman after scoring 8 points each, while team captain Dean Blake chipped in 7.

With the loss, Agape 2 is still winless in six games.

Kagman eyes win No. 5 today when it faces GCA at the Ayuyus turf at 3:30pm. Also scheduled at 3:30pm is the game between Saipan International School and Agape 1 at the Geckos court in As Lito, while the unbeaten Manta Rays will take on MCS 2 at the Koblerville Gymnasium at 4:30pm.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Han, center, drives against Grace Christian Academy players during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koberville Gymnasium.

MIEKO

From Page 32

"Unfortunately, I could not join Tagaman. It's been hard to find time to train for three events after I gave birth," Carey said.

"My training is much different now. Babies come first. I wake up at 4am, then go run and come back before 6am to prepare their breakfast. I then drop them to daycare and I go to work. Once the day starts, I don't want to train because I want to be with our twins," the former Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan champion said.

Carey is one of the more than 700 runners competing in next Saturday's Saipan Marathon, which features the 42.1K race and also has a 10K event. The Marianas Visitors Authority's signature event will start and end at the American Memorial Park with the marathon kicking off at 4:30am and the half and 10K races beginning at 5:30am and 6:30am, respectively.

NMIFA

From Page 32

FC will take on Kanoa FC. Matansa FC completes the division, but won't be playing its season-debut game until next Friday against MP United.

Including the five squads in the U18 group, this year's spring season features 54 teams spread out in nine divisions (four in non-competitive and five in competitive). The non-competitive field has teams in the co-ed U6, U8, U10, and U12B, while co-ed U12A, boys U15 and U18, and girls U16 and U19 teams are lined up in the competitive field. Games in eight divisions will all be played at the NMISTC, while the four teams competing in the girls U19 group (futsal) will utilize the Tan Siu Lin Sports Complex.

Kanoa and TanHoldings will square off in the first girls U19 division match at 5:30pm, while Southern United FC will meet MP United in the second tiff at 6:40pm.

In the girls U16 division, a triple-header is scheduled every weekend with Kanoa and Paire playing in the curtain-raiser tomorrow afternoon. The two other matches in the opening week will have Southern United challenging MP United, and TanHoldings colliding with Matansa.

In the boys U15, Kanoa-1 will see action in the first game at 8am against Matansa, while Kanoa-2 is slated to duel TanHoldings in the second match at 9:30am. For the last game in the division tomorrow, MP United will square off against Shirley's FC at 11am.

In the co-ed U12A, only four teams are vying for the division crown—Kanoa, Shirley's MP United, and TanHoldings. Kanoa and TanHoldings will play on Pitch 1 at 4pm, while the Shirleys-MP United game will take place on Pitch 2 at the same time.

Baseball appears headed to early labor negotiations

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Wade banks in trey to help Heat stun Warriors

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Lady Knights down Lady Eagles

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Han, left, jockeys for position in the paint against Grace Christian Academy's Tina Choi, second left, as the latter's teammate Karena Torres unloads a point-blank shot during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koberville Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School fended off Grace Christian Academy's comeback attempt in the fourth quarter to pull off a 26-20 victory in the girls division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Fiona Bucalig halted the Lady Eagles' rally when she scored all of the Lady Knights' 4 points in the fourth quarter, including the buzzer-beating fastbreak layup. She finished the match with 8 points.

Before Bucalig's heroics, Mt. Carmel squandered a double-digit lead it got in the third quarter, 22-10. Jasmine Phan, Karena Torres, and Tina Choi combined for 10 points in the fourth quarter to bring GCA back into the game, but the Lady Eagles failed to complete the come-from-behind win, no thanks to Bucalig's pair of baskets. Phan had a team-high 7 points, while fellow seniors Torres and Cho contributed 4 markers apiece.

The Lady Knights led from start to finish, holding the Lady Eagles to three field goals in the first half for a 16-7

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Mieko to race in Saipan Marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Saipan resident Mieko Carey will be back on island next week to join the half marathon event in the 2019 Saipan Marathon.

"I want to enjoy racing on Saipan again. This will be my first big race since I gave birth to my twins—Sota and Sora," said Carey, who left Saipan in 2014 and is now based in Guam.

When Carey competed in the half marathon in 2009, she was the first overall female finisher of the 21.09K race after clocking in at 1:34:54. Ten years later and with two kids and limited training time, she is not putting too much pressure on her shoulder when she competes in the March 9 event.

"If I make under 1:40:00, then I will be happy. More than getting a good time, I am just super excited to come back, bring my twins, and show them to my Saipan friends," she said. "It will be more challenging to bring them to Saipan all by myself than do the race."

The triathlete gave birth in May last year and has been back to training for only a few months. Her training regimen is also very different now compared to when she was very active in triathlon thus she won't be able to make it to the 30th Tagaman Triathlon, which will also be held this month.

See MIEKO on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey competes in one of the local races in Guam late last year.

NMIFA opens spring season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Soccer is back.

Four months after Super Typhoon Yutu forced the cancellation of tournaments, soccer games will return this weekend, as the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association kicks off the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Four teams in the boys U18 division will start the season with the CNMI Boys U15 National Team battling Tan-Holdings Football Club in the 5:30pm game today at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. In the second match at 7:15pm, MP United

See NMIFA on Page 31

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Footbal Club and Paire Football Club players ward each other off, as they chase the ball during their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.